

THE GATEWAY

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Federal and provincial budgets focus on education

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

The last two days have been the most important of the year, as far as the future of postsecondary education in Canada and Alberta is concerned.

The federal budget, released Tuesday, and the provincial budget, released yesterday, provoked both positive and negative reactions from the affected postsecondary groups.

The federal budget, which promises more support for students of low-income families, an increase in weekly student loan allowances, an increase in the maximum amount of debt reduction for students facing financial difficulty, and an increase of \$20 million to offset the indirect costs of research, was received poorly by the University of Alberta Students' Union.

"Merely increasing the loan limits isn't really going to help that many people," said University of Alberta Students' Union President Mat Brechtel. "Putting yourself in further debt when you're in dire need anyway is not going to put you in a better position after you graduate. That's very much a double-edged sword."

SU Vice-President (External) Chris Samuel was similarly negative about the federal budget. "It disappoints me in a lot of ways," he said.

"[The federal budget] disappoints me in a lot of ways. ... We would have liked to see, bottom line, more dollars going to the institutions."

CHRIS SAMUEL,
SU VP (EXTERNAL)

"One of the main things that we were advocating and that students across the country have been advocating is increased funding to the institutions on the federal level, and there have been opportunities for that. We would have liked to see, bottom line, more dollars going to the institutions."

Rick Teller, Ontario national executive representative for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), agreed.

PLEASE SEE BUDGETS • PAGE 2



PHILIP HEAD

FOCUS ON EDUCATION Alberta Learning Minister Lyle Oberg discusses the provincial budget Wednesday afternoon.

U-Pass referendum price unrealistic, says ETS

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

With the U-Pass referendum approved, all U of A students could be riding the bus anytime, anywhere, for \$120 a year—but only if the Students' Union can find a way to bridge the funding gap between their proposed price and ETS's required revenue.

"The problem that we have is, if we accepted the terms of the referendum, we would end up with a \$3 million a year shortfall, and that is something that we just can't do."

KEN KOROPESKI,
ETS DIRECTOR OF
SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

The SU has been working out the details of a universal bus pass (U-Pass) for the past three and a half years. With no mandate from the students, negotiations with the Edmonton Transit System (ETS) have been slow, but with the referendum passed, the SU finally has the direction it needs to try and get what it wants. The problem is, the referendum promised students the

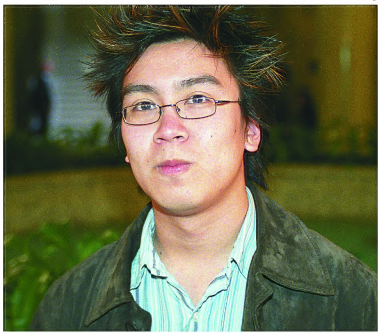
U-Pass would not exceed \$60 a semester, a fee simply not feasible from ETS's standpoint.

As Ken Korpopski, Director of Service Development for ETS explained, ETS is interested in pursuing the U-Pass, but needs a minimum of \$120 per semester per student to ensure enough service and to offset revenue that ETS normally gains from bus ticket sales and regular fares. Even then, the transit company would only break even.

"We're not trying to make any money with that price," said Korpopski.

"Edmonton Transit does not support the U-Pass concept. There is no question about that. It has worked in other cities with other universities, and it's a very good initiative. The problem that we have is, if we accepted the terms of the referendum, we would end up with a \$3 million a year shortfall, and that is something that we just can't do."

PLEASE SEE U-PASS • PAGE 3



PHILIP HEAD

SU VP (External) Chris Samuel discusses the potential for a Universal Bus Pass.

Indian ecologist to speak at U of A on natural agriculture

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Writer

World-renowned ecologist, environmental conservationist and women's rights advocate Vandana Shiva is travelling halfway around the world to reflect on technology, nature, and society at the University of Alberta next week.

Speaking on 29 March as part of the Students' Union's Revolutionary Speakers Series, Shiva is recognized internationally for her efforts to protect nature, both at home and worldwide. She is also the author of two books on the subject, *The Violence of Green Revolution* and *Monocultures of the Mind*. Her interest in environmental conservation was first sparked in her birth province of Kerala, India, where a movement known as Chipko, or "hug the trees," was started by several women in the region to help save the Himalayan forest from logging abuses. By 1980, at the age of 28, Shiva had founded the independent Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology, based out of India.

"I founded the [foundation] to do participatory action research to support the grassroots environmental movement," explained Shiva.

The successes of the foundation have been many, including the prevention of Monsanto, an American biotechnology company, from introducing genetically modified seeds into India for four years. They have also influenced the Dehradun regional government in their refusal to supply water from the Ganges River to the Suez company to sell in Delhi, and supporting the tribal women of the province of Kerala in their fight against the Coca Cola factory in their region, which they claimed was exploiting ground water resources.

"GMOs will aggravate hunger, malnutrition and poverty, but will create a false promise of more food."

VANDANA SHIVA,
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

The foundation also created a program called Diverse Women for Diversity that "seeks to herald a global campaign of women on food, diversity, cultural diversity and food security."

PLEASE SEE SHIVA • PAGE 2



12 Feeling the need for playoff hockey, but the NHL hasn't started yet? Our very own Bears are in Fredericton this weekend for the CIS championship. Read all about it today in Sports.

Inside

News Opinion 1-5
Sports 7-11
A&E 12-14
Classifieds 15-20
Comics 21-23
Feature 22-23

Outside

Thursday Sunny; she-packed my bags last night pre-flight; High 6
Friday Precipitation! Zero hour, 3am; High 6, Low -4
Saturday Sun and cloud, and I'm gonna Be. Hi -1
High 7; Low -3
Sunday Cloud and sun, as a kite by them; High 8, Low -4
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Scandal hit the University of Alberta Students' Union when a provincial court judge overturned the 1993 election results after concerns about fraud were raised. It was discovered that a number of candidates had broken election rules, and several were investigated for offenses, including racketeering and fraud. Many individuals were implicated, including the Chief Returning Officer and the president of the campus Progressive Conservatives, who was accused of stealing SU renovation money to finance the campaign of fellow PC members. The elected SU president was accused of hiring his fraternity brothers to work as poll clerks to stuff ballot boxes as well.

1993



15 If you're looking for a way to procrastinate from term projects this weekend, you'll love today's A&E section. Movies, music and Pong are all back! Go! Now!

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Postsecondary needs less band-aid solutions, more direct funding, say students

BUDGETS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"What we would have preferred to see, and what we've been calling for pretty much since this organization was founded in 1981, is funding that should come in the way of a separate envelope of money for postsecondary education," he explained.

"Right now, the more you let students borrow, the more of an incentive you offer to institutions to raise the cost of postsecondary education. So in other words, the government says, 'oh, go ahead, you can borrow as much as you want,' and university presidents and college presidents are licking their chops and saying, 'excellent, now we can charge them more for their education.'"

The U of A administration was more positive about the federal budget, particularly regarding a \$90 million increase in the amount of funding allocated to the three large postsecondary granting councils, the Canadian Institute of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

"This is important to us for many reasons; as we renew the professoriate, we have an increased demand

on funding from the three granting councils for basic research expenses and, most importantly, this is a very important source of funding in graduate student packages," explained the U of A Provost Carl Amrhein.

"What we would have preferred to see, and what we've been calling for pretty much since this organization was founded in 1981, is funding that should come in the way of a separate envelope of money ..."

**RICK TELFER,
CPS NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE**

"All in all, the federal government had some good news for us, and the provincial government, our primary source of income revenues, had even more good news for us."

The highlights of the provincial budget for postsecondary institu-

tions include an increase in funding for Alberta institutions of 7.5 per cent, or \$85 million, the creation of 2000 new spaces for students in the province, \$7 million annually for the U of A to help its merger with Augustana College in Camrose go smoothly, and an increase in funding for scholarships, bursaries, and grants of \$6.2 million, or 10.9 per cent.

"I always hope for more, and we will continue to push the government that we need major increases in the number of spaces funded, major increases in the amount of funding per student, and we will start very quickly to urge the government to target the university system as they are successful in paying down the provincial debt," said Amrhein.

"I always hope for more, but in all in all, we are pleased with the budget and we hope to see more in the future."

According to Alberta Learning spokesperson Josepha Vanderstocp, the 2004/05 budget illustrates the provincial government's "strong commitment towards the learning system."

"This is just a continuation of the government's commitment to ensuring that students have access to an excellent postsecondary system here in Alberta," she said.



FIGHTING DEBT Mat Brechtel stands in front of the "faces of debt" wall in SUB after the budget announcements.

STREETERS

Women now make up 57 per cent of the student population at the average Canadian university.

Do you see the amount of women exceeding men in postsecondary institutions as a good thing?



Crystal Chu
Biological
Sciences II



Kyle Nanan
Pharmacology I



Jessie Kleeberger
Science IV



Jason Martyn
Science I

I think it's actually really good, because women never had a proper chance to accept themselves and pursue higher education. I think that's really important nowadays, because the glass ceiling is being removed. Women are getting better opportunities, better jobs. Women are capable of doing the same jobs as men, and I think it's very important that people know that.

I think it's a positive thing, because there's been a lot of stigma about it, that only males should take postsecondary education, and that they're expected to do more, and women are supposed to be the homemakers. So I think it's a great encouragement for women to take more of a lead role in post-secondary education and become the majority party in undergraduate society.

Definitely I think it's a positive change. I think with more women coming into the universities, more women are probably going into the work force, and that has always been an issue for women, I think.

I don't think it's a big deal now. If it becomes a big problem where men are starting to fall at school or if there's programs in postsecondary education being more geared towards women's needs, then they might want to try to resolve that issue by making a program that works for both male and female students at elementary and high school levels.

Compiled and photographed by Caitlin Crowsaw and Philip Heed

Biodiversity must be supported: Shiva

SHIVA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Diverse Women for Diversity seeks to strengthen women's grassroots movements and provide women with a common international platform to aid their views," said Shiva.

In 1991, Shiva started a national movement known as Navdanya, aimed at agricultural integration. "Navdanya is a movement born of a vision in which every species has a future, every farm is free of toxins, and every person is free of hunger," she said. "It works from the seed to the table, from the farmers' fields to policy in parliaments, ministries and international forums, from the knowledge of our grandmothers to the future of our children and grandchildren."

One of the most important focuses of Navdanya has been preserving traditional Indian agriculture. "Since 1987, Navdanya has been saving seeds, promoting chemical-free organic agriculture, creating awareness on the hazards of biosecurity and the hazards of genetic engineering, and defending people's food rights and food sovereignty in the face of globalization."

Shiva has been involved in several international campaigns against genetic engineering, and she hopes to dispel what she described as the "two major myths" surrounding genetically modified organisms (GMOs). "The first myth is that GMOs are the same as crops produced through conventional breeding, and the second is a false promise of no risks," she said. "GMOs will aggravate hunger, malnutrition and poverty, but will create a false promise of more food."

Ultimately, Shiva has dedicated her life to challenging non-sustainable, industrial agriculture. "We're challenging the myth that industrial agriculture is more productive," she explained. "Small biologically diverse farms produce more. We're challenging the idea that small farmers must disappear in the ruthless march of progress. We're challenging the monoculture of mind that allows it to be assumed that biodiversity must be destroyed to meet human needs."

U of A researcher studying causes of bird flu

HEATHER FENTON
News Writer

Thousands of miles away from Asia, where concern is rising about the recent discovery of avian influenza in poultry and humans, University of Alberta researcher Dr Katharine Magor is studying why birds are so susceptible to the virus.

There are two avian flu strains of interest to researchers, one of which (H5N1) is particularly lethal to humans, birds, and pigs, and is the cause of the 23 human cases reported by the World Health Organization in Asia so far. The other type of virus is given the name H7N3, which is highly lethal to birds, but only causes mild symptoms in humans and has recently been discovered in farmed birds in British Columbia.

"Basically, for everything that we have looked at in terms of immune response, ducks are really lousy. They have a really odd antibody response because the part that binds to the virus is there, but the part recognized by immune cells is not there."

DR KATHARINE MAGOR,
U OF A RESEARCHER

In her research on duck immune systems, Magor is attempting to understand why birds appear to be more susceptible to the virus than humans. She believes it may have to do with humans possessing six immunological genes that encode detectors for the virus, while birds only have one.

"Basically, for everything that we have looked at in terms of immune response, ducks are really lousy. They have a really odd antibody response because the part that binds to the virus is there, but the part recognized by immune cells is not there," explained Magor. "So they can make antibodies [protein produced in response to a virus], but these antibodies are not recognized by macrophages [cells that remove anything potentially harmful from the bloodstream], and the virus can then infect the individual easily."

Due to their poor immune

response abilities, ducks easily become infected with the virus through contamination of resident ponds with infected fecal material. However, not all ducks die if they encounter the virus.

"It is not in the virus's best interests to kill its host," said Magor. Ducks, while very susceptible to infection, will die only if they come in contact with a particularly lethal strain of the disease.

The lethal strain of the virus is passed to humans only through contact with chicken waste matter, which is a concern in crowded Asian markets, where the birds are sold live. One cannot become infected by simply consuming meat from a bird that is infected. The virus is currently not transmissible from human to human, but there is a concern, as with any influenza virus, that this may change because of the disease's high mutation rate.

"Having the virus become transmissible between humans involves specific mutations, and there is really no way to predict how that might happen," explained Magor. "If this

does happen, it is of major concern because of the extent of the virulence of the strain."

As it stands, both strains of the virus are highly lethal to chickens and have the potential to wipe out entire farms and cause millions of dollars in losses to chicken farmers. Magor predicts it could have similar effects on wild populations of birds, especially in Asia. The virus is what Magor calls a "hit-and-run virus."

"It gets in, causes infection, and then it spreads. By the time the immune system does anything, it is too late and the virus has already passed on."

It is for this reason that Magor is predicting that the influenza virus shuts off the immune response.

Her future research interests are to better understand the mechanism of virus infection with applications to human medicine, commercial bird production, and disease monitoring. "If the virus is turning off the immune response in ducks, it is probably doing the same thing to humans who get infected, so the next step is to figure out how to turn it back on."



U of A researcher Dr Katharine Magor explains the frequency of bird flu.

SU to pursue U-Pass funding from federal gov't

U-PASS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chris Samuel, SU Vice-President (External), recognized Koropetski's position. Realizing now that funding will have to come from elsewhere, Samuel says the SU hopes to pursue funds available through the Kyoto initiative and other federal government grants.

Samuel did not mention the province as a possible source and, though not ruling them out completely, Samuel said less attention would be given to City Council and the University administration because of their poor financial state.

But Samuel's dismissal of the city may be premature; Jane Batty, city councillor for ward four, appeared enthusiastic to meet with the parties involved.

"When I saw \$60 had been put down, I was sorry that I hadn't become involved sooner, because possibly we could have found some sort of common goal that would still

be affordable for University students and help the city not suffer such a large loss," said Batty.

"I see next year as being a very intense fundraising year and a very intense negotiating year that will set it up very nicely for potentially either a September 2005 U-Pass or even a September 2006 U-Pass."

CHRIS SAMUEL,
SU VP (EXTERNAL)

"I think it is really worth us putting together a meeting with [Incoming SU] President Jordan Blatz. There are quite a number of issues there

that we haven't even begun to look at over and above the funding. I am not saying the city wouldn't do it, but I think we do need to sit down and take a look at how best we can put this in place."

The best approach is exactly what all parties are looking for, and Samuel acknowledges the SU is likely a fair ways away from implementing the U-Pass. However, he hopes that the framework set forward this year can help next year's SU Executive tackle the ongoing negotiation process before the referendum expires in 2006.

"I don't think we are going to see anything magically happen overnight," said Samuel.

"It's not that simple. I see next year as being a very intense fundraising year and a very intense negotiating year that will set it up very nicely for potentially either a September 2005 U-Pass or even a September 2006 U-Pass."

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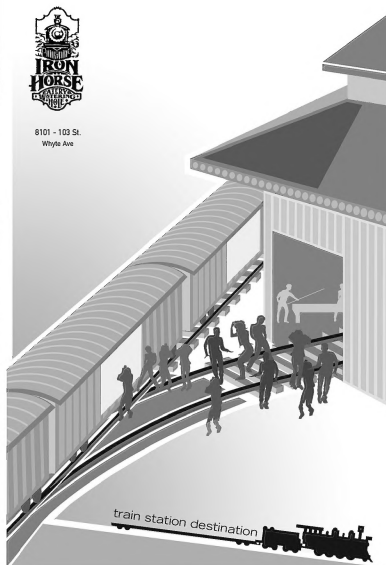
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U of A students given opportunity to learn through community service

MICHAEL SHANDRO
News Writer

Thanks to a handful of professors in the sociology department, students can now take their teachings out into the community for course credit.

The new optional component to some sociology courses is called community service learning (CSL), and according to Sara Dorow, an assistant professor in the department of sociology and part of the team that introduced CSL to the University of Alberta, its mandate is to show students that an education in sociology involves a lot more than just going to class.

"Students benefit by linking theory and practice. It's about learning at the juncture of community and classroom."

SARA DOROW,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
U OF A SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

As students perform community work, explained Dorow, they may begin to ask themselves questions such as, "Why is serving the community even necessary? What are the broader social issues that put people in the situation where they need us to do this?"

"Students benefit by linking theory and practice," she continued. "It's about learning at the juncture of community and classroom."

During a pilot project this fall, CSL components were added to three

sociology courses: 260 (Inequality and Social Stratification), 345 (Cultural Studies) and 365 (Media and Cultural Globalization). In preparation, the CSL centre—currently operated solely by Dorow—worked with the involved professors to find appropriate volunteer sites that would most benefit the students and course. A list of possible sites were then given to students.

Dorow's original experience with CSL came from teaching CSL courses at the University of Minnesota. "It's huge in the US, although it's quite new in Canada," she explained. "There is a consortium of Canadian universities that have or are in the process of establishing CSL programs right now."

Because the program is so new here, it does not yet have financial support, however. "What we are really looking for is funding to establish a CSL centre of some kind that has a full-time coordinator and support staff," said Dorow. "Ideally, someone who has lots of experience working in the community."

Fortunately, the administration sees value in the program. Both Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf and Provost Carl Amrhein have put their support behind it, and that has led to plans to expand the program. "The plan for next year is to just slowly grow the project and expand it to other departments within the faculty of arts to a total of five or six courses over the year," explained Dorow. Currently, CSL components have been confirmed in political science 324 (Citizenship for Democracy) and linguistics 324 (Endangered Languages) for next year.

So far, the program has received positive feedback from most of its participants. "For the most part, the

students who were in CSL felt that it was a good experience," said Dorow. "Seventy five per cent of students said that they would definitely do it again, and 15 per cent said probably."

Chris Ali, an arts student majoring in film and media studies, chose to take advantage of the CSL component of his cultural studies class taught by Dr. Sourayan Mookerjee. "I worked with the HOME [House Of Mother Earth] Project," said Ali. "Their basic mandate was to promote environmental and ecological living within Edmonton and to promote

more community involvement. Their ultimate project would be to buy a building and run a sustainable living community."

With his three group members, Ali compiled a list of potential speakers for a speaker series. They found and contacted many individuals, including an organic farmer, a solar panel installation expert, and U of A professors, to speak about sustainable living. "To be on the ground floor of this was really exciting," said Ali.

However, the program is not without its problems. "I found it a little

difficult to apply to course material. I think that's one of the difficulties of entering into a pilot project. We and the professors weren't sure how to incorporate our discussions into class," said Ali.

Despite the hurdles, Ali ultimately found CSL to be a positive learning experience. "I learned to approach every situation with an open mind," he said. "At the end of the class, we had to write a 20-page report. I learned way more in that paper than I would have otherwise learned in cultural studies all year."



BRINGING THE CLASSROOM TO THE COMMUNITY Sociology professor and part of the CSL team Sara Dorow.

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Women exceed men in Canadian universities

A look at the gains women have made and the ground still to be covered

MIMI SIMON
CATLIN CRAWSHAW
News Writers

After many decades of work by women and their allies, statistics suggest that a significant point has been reached in the advancement of women's interests in Canada. Women's enrolment in Canadian universities has reached an all-time high; as of 2001, women constituted an average of 57 per cent of undergraduate students in Canadian universities.

But according to U of A Assistant Chair of chemistry, Dr Margaret-Ann Armour, we mustn't see this as a sudden development.

"I think I see it as more of an evolution than a revolution. Women have done as well or better than their male peers at all courses at university, and so it's maybe not surprising that the message is getting out and more women are increasingly coming into classes," said Armour, who also sits as the Vice-Chair of Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology (WISSET)—an organization dedicated to encouraging school-aged girls to pursue science.

"We started looking at the enrolment of women in science and engineering about 20 years ago. It was very, very low at that time and we've been tracking it over the years and watching it going up and so I'm not surprised. These things take time. That's why it's not a revolution—revolutions happen faster than that. This is something which has gradually developed and women are recognizing that coming to postsecondary education gives them choices in their life."

U of A English professor Dr Julie Rak saw the change in similar terms. "I would tend not even to use the word 'evolution.' I would say the word 'development.' Evolution implies we've moved to a more sophisticated stage," she said with a laugh.

"I also think that there has been development—quantitatively—about the participation of women in university life. I mean, I would see it as positive development that it is at least now talked about for some women to go to university at all."

Nevertheless, she emphasized that the rate of progress should be taken into consideration, as even in the 1980s when Rak was completing her university education, many of the women she went to school with were pursuing their "MST"—in other words, they were finishing undergraduate degrees in order to get married afterwards.

Rak noted also that the change in the number of women attending universities has been "uneven" in her mind. The types of women attending university are still predominantly white and middle class. For that matter, the numbers of women in universities should be considered alongside the type of programs women are enrolled in, said Rak.

"I think it's important not to see how many people there are in university, but what they are there to do. Are they there to be part of traditional professions that are open to women—teaching or nursing or social work? Or are they there to do non-traditional things with their education?" she asked.

"I would say that the advent of feminism has really made the dif-

ference in terms of who applies and who works in the humanities or the social sciences now. But it doesn't matter so much for other areas."

English is a discipline still seen as less rigorous than the hard sciences, and attracts far more women than men, Rak explained. The sciences are a different state of affairs, in her mind.

In Armour's view, the work of WISSET has helped improve the number of women in the sciences and engineering in the province, in conjunction with larger social changes. However, she added that the change hasn't been steady, and that the increase in women at universities isn't represented by the numbers of women in the sciences.

"I think it's important not to see how many people there are in university, but what they are there to do. Are they there to be part of traditional professions that are open to women—teaching or nursing or social work? Or are they there to do non-traditional things with their education?"

DR JULIE RAK,
U OF A ENGLISH PROFESSOR

"I think that is the concern with many of us right now—we're not even seeing gradual change. It's so gradual it seems to be two steps forward and one step back. The numbers, especially in the physical sciences, are just terribly low. Eleven and a half per cent of faculty across Canada in the physical sciences [are women], which, to me, is very surprising. Now, at least, it's 50 per cent in chemistry in undergraduate

programs, but it's been 30 per cent for the last 15–20 years. And so it's just very disappointing that it's not translating into a larger number of women," she said.

Rak added that fewer women than men are likely to attend graduate school. In the department of English, for instance, there are more men than women who are full-time professors, in spite of the large female enrolment at the undergraduate level.

"I would say that the model of the ideal graduate student is some kind of model from the 1950s," she explained; the ideal graduate student is male, and if he's married, his partner takes care of the children. He lacks dependents he needs to personally care for, and does not have financial problems.

Rak emphasized that this isn't a "deliberate model," but rather the product of a system that isn't structured to account for women's needs. Women continue to be the primary caregivers for children, she said, and often drop out of graduate school to do so.

Shannon Phillips, former Policy Advisor for the U of A Students' Union, local activist, and a graduate of the political science Masters program, agrees that an increased number of women in undergraduate programs should be considered alongside other factors.

"Even though you see a lot more women going into the university system, that's not to mean that even if they go into the regular job market they're [not] still seeing significant salary discrepancies between women and men," she said.

She added that even among sessional or assistant professors, there are still significant wage discrepancies between men and women in some disciplines.

"Women are still more likely to be poor, they're still more likely to work part-time, they're still more likely to be non-union, they're still more likely to do more flexible work, and first to get fired. All of the stuff in terms of sociology of work data that you look at bears that out."

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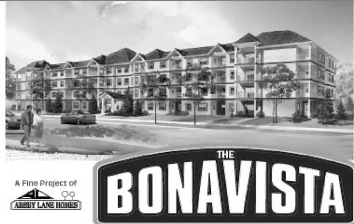
Please go to www.gatewayuaberta.ca/scholarships to download a PDF of the application form, or pick up a hard copy from the Gateway offices on the third floor of SUB. Applicants shall submit a 500-word essay on independent campus media; to be judged for address by appointed members of the GSJS.

To be eligible for the scholarship you must be a full-time continuing student with a GPA of at least 2.0; but can neither be a staffer of the Gateway (this includes volunteers), nor a member of the GSJS Board of Directors, nor a member of the GSJS Embassadors.

Applications will be due by noon on Friday April 9, 2004. Completed applications should be submitted in sealed envelopes labeled "ATN Gateway Scholarship Committee" either to the Gateway offices, 3rd floor SUB, or to members at the Students' Union main offices. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

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FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BERNOW

Margaret-Ann Armour, vice-chair of WISSET and assistant chair of chemistry.

STUDENTS' UNION PAGE

MARCH 25, 2004

A YEAR IN REVIEW

PRESIDENT MAT BRECHTEL

One year seems like a long time, but twice now, a year has flown by in the blink of an eye. In the past months, I have endeavored to do many things, and in every one my results are a mere fraction of a complete project. We have built Alberta student alliance with Bill 43 as a catalyst; we have challenged a textbook giant to adapt to a truly modern student environment with POD (read "Rip-off 101" at www.CALPIRG.org for more info). However, we have failed to find new Provincial funding to halt tuition increases. I believe that in the years to come, any victories will be found by examining the long-term problems—5.3% may not seem large, but 215% in ten years is unacceptable. To the student body, thank you for your trust and support, I look forward to meeting more of you next year.

VP ACADEMIC JANET LO

"There is no end. There is no beginning. There is only the infinite passion of life." (Frederico Fellini)

And so, I will tread on, just a speck in the large picture of the Students' Union, of the University of Alberta. I set out with some high hopes and many-a-goal, like "Bear Tracks 24/7" and "Enforcing GFC Policy." I came in naive about the job and how a year changes your outlook: Bear Scat is now a SU service, we had quite the issue-loaded year on GFC - discussing your course syllabi and the Fall 2003 grades, and a lot of work was done on various projects and goals. I couldn't have made it through without the support of some incredible people: you know who you are, and I will spend the next chapter of my life thanking you. It has been a pleasure to work with the U of A staff this year, and I am honoured to have worked with some phenomenal students- CoFA, AAB, GFCSC: many thanks for your dedication. Special thanks goes to Chris Henderson who rocks the academic free world. Exit Janet stage right, enter Lisa... congratulations, and carry the VPA torch proudly!

VP EXTERNAL CHRIS SAMUEL

This year was wicked intense, filled with excitement and mirth. We continued to strengthen CAUS, our provincial lobby organization, and took bold steps in forging alliances with our collegiate counterpart ACTISEC. Bill 43 tested this new alliance, and our combined effort was able to prompt huge amendments to the bill. The external portfolio also forged stronger relationships with groups and communities across the province. We've made substantial headway with our Universal Bus Pass, and have taken our High School Leadership Conference to new heights. We're not done yet, though! Before the end of the year, we'll have completed a full-scale policy review, and are right in the middle of our first Debt Week campaign.

Say hi to Alex and thank you for the opportunity!

VP OPERATIONS & FINANCE
TYLER BOTTEN

3 successes:

- Completion of the 2001 Organizational Review of the Students' Union
- Participation in a review of all SU Bylaws and Operating Policies
- Completion of a comprehensive review of budget and financial statement restructuring to make it easier to understand how your SU fee dollars are used

1 lesson learned:

- As I said during last year's election; this is a boring and thankless job, but I've had a blast and (surprisingly) a couple of thanks along the way too

1 project for Alvin, the new VP Operations & Finance next year:

- Implementation of a revitalization plan currently in the works for RATT and the Powerplant

VP STUDENT LIFE JADENE MAH

What a great year! Thanks to a bunch of people who worked hard all year, here is some things I can share with you:

Four successes:

- Creation of 1st annual Wellness Week at the U of A
- Promotion of bike related programming, resources and services through Year of the Bike
- Zero Year Reunion and MUGS involvement opportunities created with the U of A Alumni Association and Alumni Student Life Committee
- Tremendous diversification of our programming - SUBstage: Your Campus Living Room, Athletics Partnerships, Ship Nights, Antifreeze Changes, and Different Powerplant programming

A couple of things Duncan will need to work on next year:

- Implementation of our revitalization plan currently in the works for RATT and the Powerplant
- Continue Wellness Week annually
- Build upon MUGS program with Alumni Association involvement

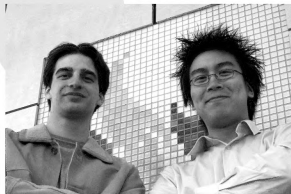
Being your VP Student Life was a blast, and I learned so much. I hope you had fun this year, and I'll be glad to go back to just having fun next year and force Duncan to think of the ways to entertain me.



Mat Brechtel with President Elect Jordan Blatz



VP Academic Elect Lisa McLaughlin with Janet Lo



VP External Elect Alex Abboud with Chris Samuel

YOUR 2003/2004 SU EXECUTIVE
492.4236

President: Mat Brechtel

president@su.ualberta.ca

Vice-President Academic: Janet Lo

vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca

Vice-President External: Chris Samuel

vp.external@su.ualberta.ca

Vice-President Operations & Finance: Tyler Botten

vp.finance@su.ualberta.ca

Vice-President Student Life: Jadene Mah

vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca

UPCOMING SU EVENTS

Mar 27: Alex Murdoch CD Release Party

w/ guest Geoff Hawryluk @ Powerplant

Mar 29: Revolutionary Speakers Series

Vandana Shiva @ Myer Horowitz Theatre

Apr 2: Rush the Vote

@ Cineplex Odeon, South Edmonton Common

Apr 5: Federal Election Forum

@ SUBstage

Apr 7: Last day of classes

Apr 10: Deep Fine Grind

w/ guests Kerbogs and Whitemud Drive @ Powerplant

Apr 13-24: Final examinations

Apr 14: Hawksley Workman

@ Myer Horowitz Theatre, tix @ Ticketmaster

Apr 17: CJSR presents

The Wolfnote, Twin Fangs & The Mark Birtles Project @ Powerplant

May 3: Students' Council Transition Meeting



Tyler Botten with VP Ops & Finance Elect Alvin Law



VP Academic Elect Duncan Taylor with Jadene Mah



SU website: www.su.ualberta.ca | SU webboard: <http://webboard.su.ualberta.ca> | Students' Council website: www.su.ualberta.ca/council

Su Info Listserv: Email majordomo@majordomo.su.ualberta.ca and put "subscribe su-info" in the body of the email

OPINION

Councilor elections slip under the radar yet again

EARLIER THIS MONTH, 25 per cent of undergraduate students turned out to elect next year's Students' Union Executive—the highest election turnout in five years. Two weeks later, a total of 772 votes were cast for next year's student councilors. If you do the math, that's less than three per cent of the undergraduate population.

In arts, a faculty of approximately 5500 students, 77 people—or less than two per cent of the faculty—voted. In education, 39 votes were cast. In the faculty of agriculture and forestry, it was seven, and in native studies, two students turned up to the polls.

Just like in SU executive elections, candidates need to get their platforms and ideas out there. While this year is exceptional, there is always a ridiculous disparity between the voter turnout for the two elections, and I'll readily admit that I am one of those over 6000 students who made sure to thoroughly inform myself before voting for next year's Executive but couldn't even tell you who was running for Council in my faculty.

Now, I know I'm not exactly a normal student. I take two classes a term and spend 40 hours a week holed up in an office on the third floor of SUB. However, I've also been to several Council meetings, which if nothing else have taught me how important SU decisions are made, and I know exactly what GFC is. Despite all of this, I knew nothing about most of the candidates and had no idea where to find any information on their platforms, and I figured it was better to make no decision at all than an uninformed one.

However, I am aware that, if anything, Students' Council holds more power than the Executive. But for some reason the perception is that it's the other way around, if the elections are any indication; the candidates receive far less money for their campaigns than those running for Executive positions, and little effort is made to publicize the faculty representative elections at all.

If students want to inform themselves before voting in the Executive elections, it's simple: there is campaign literature floating around everywhere, and there are several forums over the course of two weeks if you want to hear more specifics and ask questions of the candidates. However, as far as I know, there is absolutely no way to get any information on the platforms of our potential faculty representatives, and if there is, it's obviously badly underpublicized.

While more of an effort on the part of candidates to distribute campaign literature, as well as faculty-specific forums where candidates can address concerns and questions, might solve this problem, I would imagine that neither of these initiatives would make much of a difference in the long run as far as election turnout goes.

The problem is that student councilors and GFC representatives are incredibly low-profile positions. What's the last thing your faculty representatives did for you? If you have no idea, you're probably in the majority. While president or vice-president of the SU are positions that students can understand as directly affecting them in at least some ways, little to no effort is made on the part of most student councilors to discover what sort of changes their constituents want to see them make or to get any sort of feedback.

I'm sure I'll receive scores of angry letters from councilors for that comment, but hey, I've never been asked what I want to see changed, and trust me, neither have the vast majority of students.

Right now, most students don't know how to get their voices heard on Council or GFC even if they want to, and it's up to the faculty representatives to change this. Well-advertised websites, where students can post questions or concerns and representatives can get feedback and let the public know what they're up to, polls and surveys of random students and large classes and higher-profile elections are some of the many ways the absurd lack of information most students have access to can be addressed.

As long as faculty representatives don't go out of their way to inform and educate their constituents, students will remain ignorant and uninterested in the purpose of their positions, and councilors will never be able to say they truly represent their faculties.

KRISTINE OVRAM
News Editor

LETTERS

The last word on the evolution debate

There has been something of a debate in the letters pages regarding evolution and creation. It started out as amusing, but now I'm bored of it, so I figured I'd just put an end to it.

The fact of the matter is that anyone who has ever become embroiled in such a debate has come to the inevitable conclusion that they will never convince someone of a different opinion than themselves that they are wrong. You walk away from the conversation wondering how the other person could be so closed-minded and blind to the obvious truth. The best you can hope for is an understanding of how the other side thinks.

I'm already familiar with the arguments for evolution and I'm not learning anything from the other side except that creationists are using the same old tired arguments.

Pretty much once they've reached the age of 15, people's ideologies are such that only life-altering experiences will ever change them. A person may become more complacent over time about their ideology and it may lead to that person having less of an impact on the ideology of the next generation, but the people themselves rarely change.

It's like evolution and population dynamics: once it has developed, any individual is relatively stuck in place. It's just a matter of how much impact that individual has on the next generation that determines the eventual outcome of the population. Generally, the population will fluctuate mildly with changes in the environment, but without the introduction of novel features or a stark need to change, there will be a fair amount of stasis in the relative proportions of ideologies within the population.

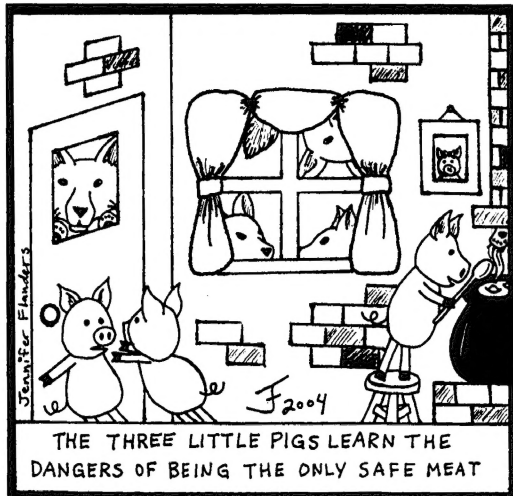
There, that's it! No more discussion unless you can actually contribute something new.

WILLIAM GELNAN
Paleontology III

'Plant problems aren't the fault of service staff'

This letter is directed to the new elected SU executive. I am a server/bartender at the Powerplant and have spent the last month listening to anyone talking about how sad it is that the Plant is so dead this year and that back in the day it used to be super-crazy busy. Reasons for the lack of business, according to most of the winning candidates, is the super-shitty service, which, apparently, I along with my colleagues provide.

First of all, I would like to point out that most of the bar staff are students, which means their profession in life is not to puny the beverages for ever and ever. Second, I am invited to bet that none of the new exec's have ever worked in the service industry. I am quite certain that if I walked up to any of them stating that I could do their job better then them, spouting off ridiculous suggestions that they would all laugh hysterically and ignore me completely. If sitting on bar stool bitch-



ing about demonstrates knowledge of how a business is run then let me tell you I would personally be able to run any business in the world, as would go per cent of the rest of the university campus.

The thing that I find funny is the SU is the one making all the cutbacks. Yes, the Plant is an SU-run bar, as is RATT. But staff cuts have been determined by the SU.

The people who come into the Plant on a regular basis know that service isn't always lickety-split and that sometimes they do have to be patient. But many still show up everyday.

Personally don't believe that the problem with the Plant is the service or the staff. I think it is with the new SUs that come in yearly trying to make little improvements that actually never change anything. Change is good if it's needed, but in this case it's only another empty promise that the candidates made to get elected.

ALISSON COHEN
ENCS IV

Pro-choice arguments are misleading

The front page article in the 18 March issue of the Gateway, "Refused anti-abortion posters erected on campus," caught my eye. I have lately been inundated with varying opinions in the pro-life/pro-choice debate, from both this article and other sources and I've decided to add my two cents.

Campus Pro-Life should be allowed to display posters depicting the realities of abortion. They are not discriminatory nor do they incite hatred; they are factual and the parallels drawn from them are, unfortunately, accurate.

Ian Moes is right; pro-life advocates do not condemn women who have had abortions, but seek to defend unborn babies and to inform and support those facing unplanned pregnancies. Why should any truly pro-abortion person be offended by such

images? If there are no moral implications to a woman, there would be no cause to be disturbed or upset. Or, perhaps, a woman who has had an abortion experiences distress and guilt upon viewing pictures of aborted fetuses because she is suffering feelings from post-abortion syndrome that Voices for Choices' own signs claim is not "medically recognized".

Non-unanimous support in the medical community for a particular disorder by no means is the same as saying that it does not exist. To "de-mystify" some other "de-mystifying" that Voices for Choices has done, some studies have shown a correlation between abortion and increased risk for breast cancer. And if abortion is not used as a form of birth control, what is it for?

It was not necessary for Voices for Choices to post the reason for the sake of those offended by GAP's signage. Megan Golde in her letter to the editor ("Allow GAP on campus; students can decide for themselves," 18 March) was wise to say that students can decide for themselves. If the photographs of aborted fetuses look something like the mutilation of tissue that resembled little human beings, that is exactly what it is.

But maybe Voices for Choices would like to put another sign on the door of the Tory building to apologize for offending me with their own—in this case misleading—signs prominently displayed in the hallways which I had no choice but to see.

PAMELA DOERKSON
Education III

Moya, you're just not very funny

I thought since Geoff Moya is incapable of deducing the reason legions of Gateway readers haven't congratulated him on his amazing satirical genius displayed in his last two articles ("Let's not corrupt one of man's oldest institutions," 16 March, and "Doesn't Anyone

Understand Satire?" 23 March), I'd help him out. Geoff, the reason is you're not funny!

And who says subtlety is a lost art?

By the way, Geoff, if you're offended by this letter, just pretend it's satire.

PAUL KNYTL
Engineering II

Shragge's GM opinion severely misinformed

I have some issues with Mr Shragge's review of the film *Deconstructing Supper*, a Canadian documentary exploring current food choices, ranging from organic to conventional agriculture to genetically modified (GM) food ("Supper starved for real facts," 16 March).

Let me begin by telling you who I am not—I am not an expert in genetics, biology or any other food-related scientific discipline and in no way do I have any ties to the biotechnology industry (do you, Mr Shragge?). Rather, I am a well-informed citizen sincerely concerned about food safety and security.

Mr Shragge calls this film propaganda; he thinks that all this nonsense about the risk of GM food is scientifically unsubstantiated. Unfortunately, the risks of DDT and chlorofluorocarbons were also unknown to the scientific community a few decades ago and so they were used without restriction. In order to learn from such past mistakes, we can apply the precautionary principle, which states that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent degradation.

So, Mr Shragge, since you claim that there's no current science to prove a risk to human health from GM food, I challenge you to personally carry out this experiment on yourself.

PLEASE SEE MORE LETTERS • PAGE 8

THE GATEWAY

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MORE LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
I'll continue eating food grown in the way in which it has been for tens of thousands of years—without genetic modification and without chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

What you fail to mention in your review is the issue of GM foods not being labeled. If there is nothing wrong with GM food, why do both the US and Canadian governments refuse to pass mandatory GM labeling laws? This issue ties into the premise of the movie: consumer education and consumer choice. At a time when the relationship between the government and the private sector seems more and more cozy, especially in the United States, consumers need to be even more vigilant about educating themselves and voting for those who sincerely care for the public interest.

Perhaps readers would be interested to know what the Toronto Star had to say about this film. "It manages to instruct without scolding, explore without preaching, and ultimately, should interest anybody who eats."

DIDEM VAROL
Alumnus 2001

New Faculté councilors guilty of apathy

Elections have come and gone again this year, as they do every year. However, it didn't seem like the Faculté Saint-Jean Faculty Association (AUFJSJ) even had one. This letter is not targeting the current executive in the AUFJSJ and their effort to put together an election but rather the lack of effort put in by the incoming candidates.

There were no campaign posters and the one electoral forum that went on had very little publicity. Seems like quite the opposite from the ever-present SU Executive elections. Now, I can

understand that voter apathy exists, but I did not think that candidate apathy was possible. No effort was made to campaign in any way. Each candidate was running unopposed and this can be thought of as an easy victory but it does not excuse the lack of involvement by all the candidates.

Not only did they not seem to care enough to put up posters, but there also seemed to be a complete lack of electoral platforms. How can a person vote for someone when they have no idea whether the candidates are qualified for the position? Furthermore, if that person isn't even making an effort to make him or herself known, shouldn't that tell us something?

The present candidates, as well as future ones, must realize that an election, even an uncontested one, is still an election. Effort must be made to prove your worth as a candidate so students can make an informed decision. There are issues at Faculté Saint-Jean, and the responsibility of addressing them resides in the AUFJSJ. I sincerely wish all the successful candidates good luck in their efforts, but let's hope they know what they can bring to the students of

FSJ and that they will let us know what they are.

DAVID ARSENAULT
Arts V

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gatewayvalberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length—we do this extremely often, and we receive the occasional complaint wherein letter writers get sad because their letter was edited for length—and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words—that's right, only 350 words. I know it doesn't seem like a lot, but it could mean the difference between your letter seeing print or your letter being discarded because it's 650 words too long. Moreover, if you're concise, 350 words should be ample space in which to make your point(s) known—and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Ways you're helping the beef industry

- 1 Saving money on feed by releasing cows back into the wild.
- 2 Working feverishly to find connection between vegetarians and 11 September.
- 3 Substituting cheddar with beef when ordering Arby's Beef 'n' Cheddar.
- 4 Pulling out old the Colecovision to play Burgerime.
- 5 Bumper stickers that read: "I love Alberta beef more than you, asshole."
- 6 Buying the kids a Fisher Price Rendering Plant for Christmas.
- 7 Drinking Beefmaster Gin and eating beefsteak tomatoes while listening to Captain Beefheart records, just in case.
- 8 Making headcheese cool again by putting it in more rap videos.
- 9 Crippling the vegetable industry with your latest strain of Mad Broccoli Disease.
- 10 Crazy mascot named SpongeBeef Kleinpants.

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BEVAN BURNS

I am what is wrong with western civilization. I'm overweight because I habitually consume far more food than I require and I use up far more energy and fresh water than I need; I am the stereotypical Euro-North American consumer, and I'm eating the human race out of house and home.

I feel horribly guilty about my life whenever I think of how much better off I am than the vast majority of the world, but that doesn't matter one little bit because of the other thing I'm terribly guilty of: I can't be bothered to change my ways, which is really the problem with almost all of the industrialized west; changing the world would be too bloody inconvenient.

I know that I eat too much. I notice it every time I down a sugar-laden Timbit. I've never known real hunger. I can't even describe the kind of hunger I imagine emaciated children in Africa must feel. One thinks of real hunger as gnawing, but I have no idea what it's like to be gnawed at. The only sense in which I don't know what my next meal is coming from is that I haven't decided yet whether to submit my overladen gastrointestinal tract to a piled-high sub from Louie's or to a container of Ho Ho's, which will come in an ultra-convenient Styrofoam box

"I know that I eat too much. I notice it every time I down a sugar-laden Timbit. I've never known real hunger. I can't even describe the kind of hunger I imagine emaciated children in Africa must feel. One thinks of real hunger as gnawing, but I have no idea what it's like to be gnawed at."

whose ultimate destination will be a landfill far from the city which I will never have to see or smell, let alone care about in my entire life.

I get even more overweight each day when I hop into the car I take for granted and go ripping up Fox Drive, spewing out loads of noxious chemicals on the short drive to school, never putting in any more physical effort than is necessary to shift gears and change the stations on my stereo. Why do I do this? Because it's damned convenient! No waiting for an overcrowded bus where I can cozy up to all the other overfed, pampered suburbanites on their way to school and work; I ride to my government-subsidized postsecondary classes on my own terms, with a Pop Tart between my teeth and the music of some overpaid rock star blaring out my speakers. Why? Because I can.

But then I read about a car bomb that ripped through a crowded market place in Jerusalem while my door remains serenely unlocked; I read about thousands of children dying of hunger in sub-Saharan Africa as I wolf down another handful of Timbits; I read about the millions of people suffering and dying of preventable diseases as I pop back a brand-name painkiller for a

mildly discomforting headache I woke up with. I read about these people, and feel deeply sorry for them as I pop another pill, cram the last Timbit in my mouth and head out my door, which I may or may not lead behind me. This is when the dark side of my western lifestyle is ugly head.

As I burn away my relatively cheap and plentiful fossil fuels on my way to wherever I like, I'm wracked by the terrible guilt that inevitably follows unfettered indulgence when met with the knowledge of such global suffering. We're a culture that once valued selfless sacrifice for the greater good, but now we only pay it lip service. These days, we're willing to sacrifice anything, even the future of our biosphere, as long as it's for our own benefit. All of us, including yours truly, are ultimately slaves to convenience; people who lead truly selfless lives trying to make this landfill of a planet a little bit better are few and far between.

In the end, it will be people like you and I who will make the difference. When we finally get up off our collective lazy ass and make a real sacrifice, we might actually find that the earth will still be a place worth living in fifty years from now. I hope I don't choke to death on a Timbit first.

Stop serving Canadian



PAUL KNOECHEL

Now, there's no real problem with Molson itself. Their import Barlaria is one of the best light beers out there, and a pint of Pilsner goes nicely with a slice of pizza. The problem is their little where-child Canadian. It simply baffles me that Molson, who sells more beer in this country than any other brewer, chooses Canadian as their flagship brand. It never goes down smooth and it leaves a sickly aftertaste, which is a terrible shame because Molson seems intent on making everyone love it, as evidenced by their massive ad campaigns.

Regardless of your stance on taste of beer, it's easy to see that Canadian probably doesn't best suit the tastes of many campus bar patrons. That's why the SU should look into supporting a new brand for such attention in their bars, like some tasty Kokanee: all the domestic beer price, but four times the quality. Alberta's own Big Rock has a lovely selection, ranging from their dark Traditional ale to their light and smooth Grasshopper. Even a nice East Coast Beer deserves a shot; maybe we should get some Moosehead on tap. Compared to Canadian, even President's Choice beer would be a welcome change of pace. It has the same qualities as Canadian, only it's cheap as sin and it packs more alcohol content than your traditional lager.

Either way, it should be the students who decide. When SU elections roll around next year, add an extra option and vote for your choice of "Campus Beer." Voter turnout would surely rise to a point where the people that control so much of our money are actually decided upon by a majority.

Until then, I'll be nursing my mouth out with this Comet dissolved in Drano.

Now, before anyone starts blubbering over the bashing of their beloved beverage, just step back and take a look at the influence of the brew that is at best below average and at worst-and more accurately—barely fit to clean urinals. Every Thursday at the Plant, the beer on special is Canadian. Funny how when the Lister students have their own night in a bar, it's the Canadian that flows cheap and freely. Beer gardens set up and you want something to get you through that lecture? Here you go, some nice frothy moose piss, compliments of Molson.

wellness week

Sincere appreciation to the following groups and individuals for contributing to the success of the University of Alberta and Students' Union's first annual Wellness Week.

President's Walk

Mayor Bill Smith
Chancellor John Ferguson
Dr. Carl Amrhein, Provost
and VP Academic
Phyllis Clark, VP Finance & Admin
Mat Brechtel, SU President
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Evening Activities

Yvonne Rosenthal
Peer Nutrition Educators
Kerry Unger – Leslie Yuk's
Powerplant
Judy Hancock & Yukie Weigel,
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Timothy Dewhurst

Wellness Fair

Hon. Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor
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Exhibitors & Participants
Human Resources: Health Promotion
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Dr. Louis Francescutti
Human Nutrition Research Centre
Dr. Ronna Jemne
Dr. Anita Gainer

Participation Stations

Centre for Student Development
Health Promotion
U of A Dance Club
U of A Kung Fu
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Student Disstress Centre
Nutrition and Food Sciences Students'
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SU Tobacco Reduction Project,
AADAC and Sunita Chacko
Athletics: A-Team
Information Services

12 Hours of Ultimate Frisbee

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and Jimmy Jeong's Students' Union
Building Ultimate Frisbee Team

Special Thanks to the Wellness Week

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Dr. Mike Mahon,
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We need a revolution ... of the mind



MEL
BACKSTROM

Dealing with the collective insanity that often seems to so definitively characterize popular culture is important. It's far too easy, especially for always-busy university students, to bury one's head in the sand of willful ignorance and complacency when it comes to making choices concerning those things which make up one's day-to-day interactions. How many times have you heard someone say that they're "just not interested in politics," when to live or die is itself a choice infused with political significance? Though one may pretend that whether or not you turn off the lights when you leave a room is irrelevant, it is, in fact, a political choice; the totality of which defines whom you are.

It comes down to responsibility—not only to oneself, but to others as well. Do you know where the food you eat, the coffee you drink, or the clothes you wear come from? While these questions can never be fully satisfied, they can succeed to varying degrees depending on one's desire to be aware, one of the best ways to do this is to frequent one of the many farmer's markets in and around Edmonton where you can actually talk to the people who grow the vegetables, raise the animals, and bake the bread—all the background information that a supermarket erases.

In these increasingly giant ware-

"It comes down to responsibility—not only to oneself, but to others as well. Do you know where the food you eat, the coffee you drink, or the clothes you wear come from? While these questions can never be fully satisfied, they can succeed to varying degrees depending on one's desire to be aware."

houses of collected goods, food—that which constitutes the very physicality of the self—becomes nothing but a choice between different packaging dependent upon ever-increasing exposure to mass advertising. The connection between the meat you may buy and the living breathing animal that it once was has been severed by an industrial killing process that eviscerates any notion of accountability for what it is you're ingesting. Is it any wonder that obesity and heart disease are the two most serious health problems in our society and are, for the most part, entirely preventable.

Of course, it's not surprising given the amount of falsehoods that are now taken as accepted truths, one of the most ridiculous being the supposed necessity of drinking milk in order to prevent osteoporosis—as if a lack of calcium in the diet is actually the problem. One thing you never hear from the dairy industry is the now well-proven fact that the cause of this disease is not the result of a lack of calcium, but from an excess amount of animal protein consumption—something we in the protein-subsidized industrialized First World excel at. The average North American gets over three times the amount of calcium in their daily diet as many people living in Africa, but among the latter osteoporosis is an almost unknown disease—except among the affluent elites.

But then, it shouldn't come as much of a surprise to anyone that industries and corporations are inherently self-interested since the people that make them up are as well. Not that this self-interest cannot sometimes prove to be socially beneficial, but a healthy skepticism towards all purported truths is a necessary precondition for withstanding the overwhelming information glut that so easily overwhelms one's capacity to discriminate the good from the bad—the gifts from the garbage.

Nowhere is this truer, of course, than in television which, in the immortal words of The Disposable Heroes of Hiphopocracy, is "the drug of the nation / breeding ignorance and feeding radiation." Not that there aren't sometimes good things to watch, but given that the vast majority of programming is so brain-deadeningly vile, why would I waste my time?

There's so much to do in this world and far too many people allow themselves to be defined and limited in the most predictably banal of ways. Though the consequences were not always positive, the psychedelic revolution of the 1960s brought about some pretty incredible things. Perhaps having your mind blown on LSD or some other suitable psychedelic drug at least once isn't absolutely necessary, but a Revolution of the Mind couldn't come soon enough.



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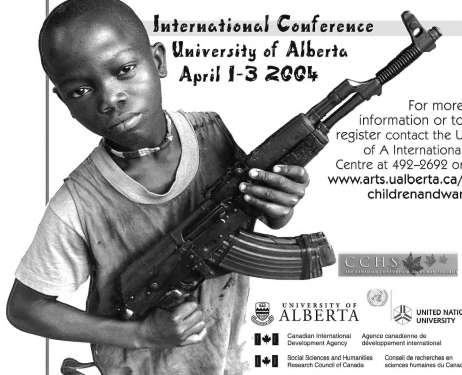
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Give the Liberals a chance



CARSON
CHENG

Due to the sponsorship scandal haunting the federal Liberals, their popularity has plummeted in the West. However, they do still hold the all-important Ontario vote: their popularity rating there currently stands at 47 per cent, some 16 percentage points above of the new Conservative party. They are also alive in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and are going strong in the Maritimes. Prime Minister Martin's personal popularity is also very strong, with the latest polls showing an approval rating of nearly 60 per cent.

To many Albertans, though, the recent sponsorship scandal simply widens the wound of Western alienation; for many students, the New Democratic Party's socialist leanings may no doubt seem appealing. In these troubled times, however, even Alberta ought to follow the lead of other parts of the country: we should vote Liberal.

There are many reasons to reject the NDP, but since their popularity is still below that of the Conservative party, voting NDP is almost like shredding your vote, especially in Alberta. And although the United Right is finally a viable challenger to the Liberals, would we really want them to run Canada?

Nowadays, we need a leader who can stand up to international scrutiny and power struggles, and who has strong relationships with the likes of the USA and the UK. Does Steven Harper have what it takes to play international power politics? Will he be respected when he stands up to speak among the G-8 leaders? He may be experienced with Canadian politics, but these

are troubled times we live in, internationally.

Conversely, Martin has strong international standing, having been Finance Minister for much of the past decade. His managing of Canada Steamship Lines into a successful company has garnered him respect in the international business community. Furthermore, Martin has proven himself capable in the eyes of the world's finance ministers and other financiers by slaying Canada's federal deficit. Martin has clout.

In times of international tension and market uncertainty, we have no choice. It may simply be the case that it's either Martin as our leader, or the international cold shoulder for Canada.

Moreover, Martin deserves a chance at the helm. Critics may call him "Martin Inc." or "Canada's CEO," but having the government run in a more business-like manner may not be so bad. Instead of shuffling off issues and sliding past national concerns the way Jean Chrétien did, Martin has taken the scandals head-on. He's actually dealing with the sponsorship scandal instead of dismissing and shuffling it off the way Chrétien has of so many things. Recall that Chrétien got away with scandals involving Human Resources Development Canada, George Radwanski, the gun registry, and Shavangirte. He also led an arrogant and high-handed Liberal government. Could you imagine Chrétien, or really any politician at all, having the guts to field complaints, criticisms and flames from the citizenry in the face of a \$100 million dollar political landmine? Martin did it on CBC Radio's Cross-Country Checkup back on 15 February—a fine example of political openness.

Martin may not be the ideal Prime Minister, but the alternatives are far worse: no others have the international clout to be truly able to further Canada's interests abroad. Moreover, Martin's straightforward style of tackling the ugly scandals and issues head-on means that, if anything, he deserves a chance to show us what he can do for Canada.

Global a bad excuse for journalism



DAVID
BERRY

This Tuesday, Canada's Liberal government came out with their first budget since former finance minister Paul Martin took over as Prime Minister. Being as how this is fairly major news, Global Television saw fit to send its chief news anchor, Kevin Newman, out to Parliament Hill to cover the announcement and get reactions for their evening national newscast. What resulted from this mix, however, bore absolutely no resemblance to anything that could be considered a viable, unbiased newscast.

Now, in fairness, I haven't seen an evening national news broadcast in a significant amount of time; I tend not to be around when these things are on. But unless we're suddenly turned into a nation of people too stupid to be able to digest information and figure things out for ourselves, Global has completely and utterly destroyed the foundations of non-partisan journalism.

It first occurred when Newman—with all the arrogance a high school boy who knows the answers to the questions before he asks them—prefaced the fact the government was to spend \$130 million on peacekeeping missions with "... and, showing that the government still does not consider the military a priority" Now, let's say for the sake of argument that most of us will see that this \$130 million dollars will only be enough to maintain our current missions, not improve our military, and deduce that our government, in fact, does not consider the military a priority. I'm willing to bet that a good chunk of Canadians will probably think that. Regardless of whether everyone in Canada thought this, it is not the responsibility of Kevin Newman to tell us how to interpret this information. He is supposed to present the facts, and

let us decide for ourselves.

Now, I'm not saying a newscast must be completely devoid of opinion. A little while later, Global brought on two pundits to argue the pros and cons of the budget, each giving his own take on the state of affairs. This is no problem; these people were clearly brought on to give a bit of an "expert" opinion on the budget and tell you what they, as experts, thought about it. But this is markedly different than having your anchor editorializing as he's giving you the news.

What makes it so much worse is that it didn't end with one comment. Another field reporter was brought on and as he fleshed out some of what Newman had said, he belied a clear right-wing slant against the Liberal's budgetary decisions by noting things such as "the Liberals are once again taking money out of your pocket as they failed to provide tax breaks" in a disapproving tone. This was right before his comment on how big government is "still getting bigger," and a graphic showing projected GDP against projected spending. This, while slightly less unbiased than Newman's comment, is still a clear agenda being put forward while being disguised as news.

But the kicker to all this was that, as the aforementioned reporter concluded his report with a semi-sarcastic comment about the government "helping out our boys who are risking their lives, but still largely ignoring the military," Newman, though the camera was not even on him, felt the need to add a self-righteous "again." If this is impartial, balanced journalism, I shudder to think what someone with an agenda is pulling. Outright lies, perhaps?

Look, I understand that we all have the urge to comment on the goings-on in the world around us. Hell, I'm writing an opinion column doing that right now. But I'm not pretending to present things in an unbiased way; just as the pundits were not attempting to remain impartial. However, when the anchor of a national newscast and his team of reporters begin lacing their reports with opinions, something is indeed rotten in the state of journalism.



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STORMING THE NET The Bears will bring their offensive attack that scored eight goals in their last outing into the CIS finals, starting tonight.

FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BENROW

Golden Bears charge into Fredericton for CIS hockey finals

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

Despite dominating the regular season over the past few years, the Bears haven't won the national title since the 1999/2000 season. But unlike the years since the last victory, the Bears are going into this year's tournament in Fredericton, NB boasting an undefeated record; a feat not accomplished since 1960/61.

"All [that's happened up until now] doesn't mean much to us; we've got to go out there and get three wins to come home with a trophy for once," said forward Kevin Marsh. Marsh and the rest of the "fab five" that includes forwards Ryan Wade and Kris Knoblauch, blueliner Blair St Martin and goaltender Clayton Pool, will be

looking for their first national title since their rookie seasons.

In fact, this will be the last opportunity for all of the team's captains, as captain Blair St Martin and his alternates Wade, Knoblauch and Marsh are playing in their fifth and final year of eligibility. St Martin was pleased with his team's performance in the Canada West final against Saskatchewan and is positive about the team's chances in the tournament. "We'll definitely like to build on the things we did right [in the Saskatchewan series]. That was our last chance to prepare, and I think we did a good job to take some strides towards being prepared for the national tournament," said St Martin.

While it can be difficult to gauge what a team can work on when they've gone undefeated,

Bears head coach Rob Daum knows that his team will have to keep themselves grounded going into this tournament. "It's a difficult tournament to win, we know that; we've been there and haven't done well [in the last few years]," said Daum. "We have to prepare ourselves to be as good as we can be for three games, and that's the bottom line. And what's happened until this point doesn't matter, but it's whoever the best team is on this particular weekend, and we have to do what we can to make sure we're the best team."

The Bears will be playing in Pool A, which includes the fourth-seeded University of Ottawa Gee Gees and the sixth-seeded hosts, the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds. Despite their top seeding going into the tournament,

Daum won't be taking any of the competition lightly. "All the teams at the tournament have a chance to win it, and we're definitely one of those teams," he said.

Alberta opens the tournament tonight against the Gee Gees at 4pm, and will play New Brunswick tomorrow at the same time if they lose, or 2pm Saturday if they win. Regardless of whether the Bears are playing in it, the Saturday game will be on TSN, along with an earlier game at 8am between teams from Pool B.

The teams comprising Pool B are the St Francis Xavier X-Men, the York University Lions and the Dalhousie University Tigers. The two teams with the best records after playing each team in their pool move on to the final, which will be broadcast on TSN at 4:30pm on Sunday.

Hockey Pandas sniper Danielle Bourgeois reflects on MVP season

JOKE THROUGHTON
Sports Writer

For the best player on the best team in CIS women's hockey, there's not a lot of obvious room for improvement. But after a stellar season in which she led her team to a perfect record and third straight national championship, Danielle Bourgeois insists that she still has room to grow. The Pandas forward and assistant captain scored 54 points in 20 games this year to set a new CIS scoring record, and was named CIS Player of the Year for her efforts. Her torrid pace continued at the national championships, where she earned Tournament MVP honours after notching half of her team's offence, including the only two goals in the gold-medal game, as they outscored the opposition 14-1 over three games.

"Everyone keeps saying 'well, it's pretty hard to top this season,'" says Bourgeois. "But you can't accept anything as being your best. You have to keep trying to get above it, so it'll be interesting to see how it goes next year."

She admits, though, that after a season like this one it takes a bit of creativity to imagine having a better year on the ice, either individually or as a team.

"We don't need to make sure that we're beating every team by at least five goals or anything like that," she says. It's a cliché to say that the team needs to focus on the "little things," but with seemingly nothing further to aim for in the big picture, Bourgeois says she and her teammates have no other choice if they want to improve as hockey players.

"At the beginning of every year, we set specific objectives, like getting twelve shots per period," she explains. "Really nitty-gritty stuff like that, or like keeping the other team off of our zone or making perfect break passes, is what will make us achieve higher things."

And while there's little more that she can add to the team as a scorer, Bourgeois hopes to step up her role in the locker room as she enters her final year of eligibility. The Pandas will lose only a handful of players to graduation this year, but one of them will be team captain Judy Diduck, whose presence Bourgeois says has been "a gift."

Next year, she'll try to fill some of the leadership void in the wake of Diduck's departure, perhaps as the team's new captain. "Judy's had a huge impact on me and really helped me to become more and more of a leader over the years," she says. "It would be an honour for me to be captain of our team, and I hope it's a possibility."

Bourgeois, who's completing a bachelor of arts in psychology, has already quietly assumed a leadership role in the area of academics, now setting an example for her teammates after struggling in the past. And while she certainly doesn't have the experience of the 1998 Olympian Diduck, who at 37 is eleven years older than any other Panda, Bourgeois does have one of the team's most impressive resumes.

Between school and winning championships with the Pandas, Bourgeois has very little free time left over. An avid snowboarder, she hasn't hit the slopes since before Christmas, nor has she even had time to catch a movie. Even with the

off-season upon her, she scoffs at the suggestion that she suddenly has time to relax.

"Oh, no!" she says emphatically. Aside from looming exams, she's already busy hitting the weight room to ensure she's in top shape for next season. Her leisure activities, which of late

mostly involve hanging out with friends and watching the Oilers' stretch run, reflect her busy schedule. "I like to watch sports highlights a lot, too. Just the highlights, I don't have time to watch the whole event," she says with a laugh. "Get to the point!"



SHAWN BENROW

PANDA PERFECT Pandas forward Danielle Bourgeois holds the team record for points in a season.



CAREFUL WITH THAT THING, YOU'LL POKE AN EYE OUT Alberta track and field coach Georgette Reed.

Reed finds stride in first year as Alberta's head track coach

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

Under the tutelage of first-year head coach Georgette Reed, the University of Alberta track and field team experienced growth and progress both on and off the track. Since taking over the job of former head coach Jim Skipjea, the former Canadian Olympian Reed has taken her team a long way in a short span.

Before Reed took the reins, the team was struggling to find its feet after some disappointing results and three different head coaches in three years. Now with a full year under her belt, Reed is able to evaluate the evolution of her team since the fall. "I think the year went well. We did have a few bumps in the road earlier on with some staffing and injuries, but for the most part I think it ran fairly smoothly," said Reed. "I put in a lot of time and a lot of stress, but it was all

worth it. I think that our program can only grow up from here. We did the work we had to do this year to build the foundations and get the community and athletes to trust us. So now we can start building on our reputation and make it even better."

Despite the lack of experience on the team, there were many young athletes who put up impressive rookie seasons. With plenty of eligibility years left, these athletes should benefit from a stable coaching staff under Reed's care. But the inexperience of the lot didn't faze Reed's expectations of her young squad this year. "We asked everyone going to the Canada West and CIS meets to give just one centimetre better, or one second better," said Reed. "Whatever they could do to finish off the year with the best performances that they'd ever had or just the best this year, I have to say that 75 per cent of the team did that, and

then some did even better at CIS."

This season finished in Windsor at the CIS Championship meet with the Pandas and Bears finishing in sixth and eighth respectively, and already Reed's attention is turning towards next year and the future of the program. "We're going to have a strong sprint program for years to come, because most of the successful athletes were all rookies or second-year students; the same goes with our throwing program," said Reed.

In addition to the current athletes in the program, Reed also plans to bolster her squad through recruitment. "I think our recruiting for this year's team is going to be much better than it was last year now that [the coaching staff] and I have a better grasp of what's involved," said Reed. "It's going to improve the program, and pretty soon we're going to have people calling us wanting to come and be a part of the program because they're seeing the potential we have."



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Students - \$15 advance, \$18 door
General Public - \$17 advance, \$20 door

tix at: ticketmaster, UofA campus (HUB, SUB, CAB Info Desks), Blackbyrd



www.RevolutionarySpeakers.com



James (Alex) Murdoch

Look out for his debut album
"Between The Lines"

LIVE

**SAT. MARCH 27th
 @ POWERPLANT
 Edmonton**

www.jamesmurdochband.com



**MIKOŁAJ
 MOSS**

Sports
 Commentary

Last week I curiously found myself climbing frozen waterfalls just outside the little hamlet of Nordegg, Alberta. Other than possessing my second favourite name for any town in Alberta—after Viking—the area is interesting for the opportunities it affords for adventures in the nearby Rockies. With the assistance of the University of Alberta's Outdoor Club, I was locked and loaded to sprint up the majestic ice sculptures.

There, I experienced for the first time truly one of the most challenging sports in this remote corner of Alberta, and I found it to be much more difficult than I'd ever thought it would be. Sure, you've got shoes with spikes on them (called crampons), and pickaxes in your hands, but climbing a 15m waterfall, complete with falling ice, isn't a walk in the park. Just trying to not kick and scrape myself with my crampons proved difficult enough.

In our group of nine, at least three people came away with some amount of bumps and bruises. At certain points in the trip, I began wishing I was taking the hits on my head instead of elsewhere, since I had a helmet that made the impacts feel more like a scalp massage—the shots to the ribs and shins were the ones I need to worry about.

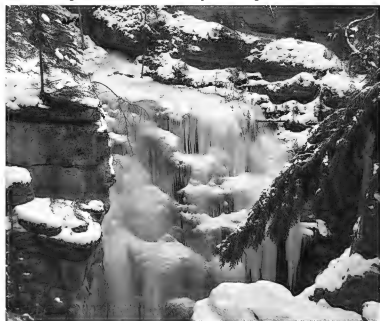
Another misconception that plagued me was the name: ice climbing. Like fishing, this activity required more

than one skill—just as a certain level of nautical skill would be needed to fish, this trip required a lot of hiking. Not to say that the climb is not the climax of the activity, but hiking is often required in order to find choice spots. The difference from fishing here, though, is you won't see a fat 40-something with a can of Labatt Blue in one hand ascending ridges of sheer, vertical ice.

Amidst all of the skills required to ice climb, as in each great sport, the challenge for experienced climbers (and the subsequent triumph) is the pride and joy one experiences at the end of the climb. Thus, practice is an obvious must. People who'd climbed nothing but an old pine in their backyard were barely making it a foot off the ground at the start of the first day. However, those same novice climbers were bettering that mark on each sub-

sequent attempt. At the end of the day, all that mattered was that everyone could go home with a smile, secure that they'd conquered the ice they set out to conquer.

Of all the extreme sports you see in the X-games, the Gravity games or any other such venues, sports like skateboarding, wakeboarding and dirt bike jumping find their way to the top of the popularity scale. The most unique of those so-called extreme sports, however, might just be ice climbing. If scuba diving is the only way to see the farthest depths of the ocean, ice climbing is the only way to rise to the most extreme peaks of the earth. If you think you can get up Everest without busting out some crampons, maybe you're just crazy enough to make it up that mountain. But that would be the only aspect of the climb you'd be prepared enough to do.



SHAWN BENJOW

TREACHEROUS INDEED Frozen waterfalls, when found, are climb-tastic.

vute

Winners of Students' Council and GFC Elections

Students' Union Council

Ag/For

Leah Bennett

Arts

Tamara Larter
 Anand Sharma
 Samantha Power
 Gabe Donnelly
 Adam Knisely
 Aaron Johnson
 Cameron Lewis
 Catrin Bergoff
 Chris Laver

Business

Steve Smith
 Chelsea Baron
 Nandini Somayaji

Education

Janet Lo
 Trevor Panas
 Sean Clovechok

Engineering

Gary Wicentowich
 Jamaal Montasser
 Josh Bazin
 Graham Lettner

Law

Tara Thompson

Med/Dent

Brock Debenham

Native Studies

Matthew Wildcat

Pharmacy

Erica Skopac

Science

Omer Yusuf
 Chris Samuel
 Darren Lau
 Stephen Kirkham
 Shawna Pandya
 Elaine Poon
 Justin Kehoe
 Kelli Taylor
 Scott Nicol

General Faculties Council

Arts

Heather Wallace
 Samantha Power
 Mustafa Hirji
 Adam Knisely
 Cameron Lewis

Business

Daniel Chan
 Brad Gamroth
 Cassie Brown

Engineering

Louis Bezuidenhout
 Mathieu Johnson
 Wade Penner
 James Crossman

Law

Tara Thompson

Pharmacy

Gillian Hansen

Science

Darren Lau
 Greg German
 Chris Samuel
 Stephen Kirkham
 Elaine Poon
 Meg Grant
 Justin Kehoe
 Robert Flook

Prepubescent girls sure to fall for *The Prince*

The Prince and Me

Directed by Martha Coolidge
Starring Julia Stiles and Luke Malby
Universal
www.princeandme.com
Opens Friday, 2 April

ASIA SZKULIARSK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sometimes you can tell a lot about a movie just by observing who goes to see it. In the case of *The Prince and Me*, that means pony-tailed prepubescent girls, their spiky-haired prepubescent boyfriends and the occasional grandma-and-grandkids combo. Needless to say, sitting amongst the aforementioned company makes you question the validity of going to see a movie whose title sounds like the teenage ripoff of *The King and I*.

Directed by Martha Coolidge, *The Prince and Me* tells the traditional 'regular gal meets man of her dreams' story. Paige (Julia Stiles)—a Wisconsin farm girl and straight-A university student—is living her life as to avoid anything that might distract her from her chosen career as a doctor. Edward (Luke Malby), the Crown Prince of Denmark, is looking for any excuse to avoid his princely responsibilities, one of which includes being crowned king. Unlike Paige, who's every spare moment is consumed by filling out med-school applications and endless studying, Edward's days consist of racing dangerous-looking sports cars and being surrounded by Baywatch life-ales.

Despite his love of sex and debauchery, how-

ever, Edward is still a poor, confused boy, and as such, he runs away to Wisconsin to embark on a journey of self-discovery. Expectedly, among his many revelations is the mysteriously intriguing Paige. Starting off as lab partners in chem class, Paige and 'Eddie' later develop a friendship that leads them on many kooky adventures, such as making out in the dorm laundry room. Kooky!

Hollywood consistently manages to enchant girls of all ages by pumping out magical stories about rainbows and roses, and this causes an obvious dilemma. After the movie, the twelve-year-olds are left in awe, anxiously awaiting a boyfriend who, unbeknownst to them, will turn out to be as romantic as a toilet brush.

It isn't hard to guess the goings-on of the rest of the movie: Paige eventually discovers Eddie's secret, is horribly disappointed that he lied to her, then realizes that she's in love, uses her friend's credit cards to follow him back to Denmark, gets engaged, and is consequently faced with the inevitable 'future queen versus future doctor' choice.

The fact that *The Prince and Me* is unrealistic is non-debatable. The only feature of this movie that's realistic is Julia Stiles' acting. However

unsophisticated her role may seem, Stiles breathes life into her otherwise run-of-the-mill character, successfully managing to evoke dreamy sighs from the junior-high-school-aged girls adoringly watching her on the big screen.

Like every movie, though, this one has a downside. Hollywood consistently manages to enchant girls of all ages by pumping out magical stories about rainbows and roses, and this causes an obvious dilemma. After the movie, the twelve-year-olds are left in awe, anxiously awaiting a boyfriend who, unbeknownst to them, will turn out to be as romantic as a toilet brush. The rest of us drive home with inflated expectations and call our boyfriends to tell them they're "not being romantic enough." Honey, are you reading this? Why don't you buy me flowers anymore? And when's the last time we just really talked?



September 11: 'Pretty tragic, hey?' ask directors

Eleven directors from eleven different countries respond to the events of 11 September in passionate film compilation

September 11

Directed by Youssef Chahine, Amos Gitai, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Shohei Imamura, Claude Lelouch, Ken Loach, Samira Makhlouf, Mila Noir, Idriess Ouedraogo, Sean Penn and Denis Tanovic
Bac Films
www.bacfilms.com/september11
Opens Friday, 26 March

JASON NORMAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

That fateful Tuesday morning in September is one that nobody in North America is likely to ever forget: some kissed their respective loved ones goodbye for the last time that morning, and so many more witnessed the murder of over 2 000 people live as the World Trade Center fell. Regardless of the scapegoating or political posturing that occurred after this tragic event, it can be said that for the most part, people did their best in whatever way they could to help. Rescue workers jumped to action as quick as they always do, parents hugged their children extra tightly, doctors offered comfort to the wounded, poets wrote and the singers sang.

The film *September 11* is a continuation of that great pull in humanity that longs to ease suffering, lend a helping hand and create awareness to things less trivial than just our own little lives here on this planet. Eleven directors from eleven different countries have provided short films (each clocking in at nine minutes, eleven seconds, no less) that offer a response to the day that changed the world forever.

The best way to describe this unique project would be as a reaction piece. People all over the world saw the scenes from different

angles and each country had their own way of reacting. The first segment, by Iranian director Samir Makhlouf, tells the story of a young teacher whose class is comprised primarily of Afghan refugees in Iran who are not yet over the age of ten. The film follows the teacher as she tries to explain to the small children what has just happened in the world and why they should care. This is a difficult task as these children hardly even know what a tower is, let alone where New York City is located, but what results is a touching piece showing just how far-reaching this tragedy actually was.

African director Idriess Ouedraogo offers a more light-hearted approach as he tells the story of a group of boys in a small town who venture off to capture Osama bin Laden in order to collect the ransom money to help

one boy's ailing mother and to care the other ill's affecting Africa in general.

The contribution from the US comes from director Sean Penn, who offers a visually stimulating and moving film about an old man living in a New York apartment, which is suddenly flooded with light when the shadow of the towers recedes.

But, the most moving and gut-wrenching film in this collection was by Mexican filmmaker Alejandro González Iñárritu (*21 Grams*, *Amores Perros*). Ironically, González had just moved to the United States to escape the terrorist-like atmosphere that was escalating in Mexico at that time.

González provides the most inventive and most horrifying piece; it's comprised almost entirely of sounds as the audience watches a black screen for the bulk of the nine minutes

and eleven seconds. It starts off with prayers and chants, moves on to street noises and voices from the news reporting on the tragedy, while flashes of stirring images of the towers emerge to a climax of white noise. This film is also juxtaposed well with an earlier film from a French director about a deaf girl writing a goodbye letter to her boyfriend as the towers fall; the whole city is crying but she can't hear a thing.

The best way to describe this unique project would be as a reaction piece. People all over the world saw the scenes from different angles and each country had their own way of reacting.

September 11 is an excellent collection that everyone should see, and not just to be reminded of the events in New York. Many of the shorts remind us of other terrible days in which other entire nations were devastated. Ken Loach offers a film that acts as a letter of empathy to the Americans during their time of sorrow. As a Chilean, his memory of a Tuesday in September was quite grim because of the memories it stirs in him about the 30 000 victims of a murderous dictatorship in his home country.

The possibilities for a project like this to come across as pretentious or self-serving in any way were quite strong, but each story is told with a great deal of heart for the craft of filmmaking and also for humanity itself. The goal here was to offer a way to be at peace with today and offer hope that tomorrow will be better. It fulfils both of these ambitions flawlessly.



Students' Union Employment Opportunities



TERMS OF OFFICE: 1 May 2004 to 30 April 2005 (in most cases)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00pm Friday April 2, 2004. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Submit COMPLETE PACKAGE to 2-900 SUB

APPLICATION FORMS: Available at SU Reception Desk 2-900 SUB, and SUB, HUB, CAB Info Booths or online at www.su.ualberta.ca. Job descriptions are available at 2-900 SUB or www.su.ualberta.ca

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applied, however ONLY shortlisted and successful applicants will be notified.
- Interviews will be scheduled for the week of April 12th

- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions subject to Council ratification & signing of employment contract.

Information Services

Associate Director – Information

Remuneration: \$911.00/month

Hours: 25hours/week

Description: The AD-Information at Information Services will perform duties including responsibility for administering all databases including the online Exam, Housing, Tutor, Used Book & Volunteer Listings. The AD is also responsible for the collection & upkeep of all information materials from campus groups, businesses & student services & compiling the information in a central database. In addition the AD will assist the Director in all facets of staff management & perform other duties as assigned by the Director.

Associate Director – Administration

Remuneration: \$911.00/month

Hours: 25hours/week

Description: The AD-Administration at Information Services will perform duties including handling & reconciling all cash, debit & credit card transactions from the main office & three satellite information desks. In addition the AD is responsible for the distribution of tickets for campus events as well as all ETS Bus Passes & Bus Tickets. The AD will be responsible for ensuring that all three Information desks are operating effectively, & will assist the Director in all facets of staff management & perform another duties as assigned.

Safewalk

Associate Director

Term of Employment: August 16, 2004 – April 30, 2005

Remuneration: \$636/month

Hours: 25hours/week

Description: The AD will be responsible for the technical component of the service, upkeep & maintenance of equipment, providing supplemental training for dispatch volunteers & other duties as outlined in the employment contract & as may be specified by time to time by the Director of Safewalk.

Centre For Student Development

Administrative Coordinator

Term of Employment: May 1, 2004 – September 30, 2004

Remuneration: May 1 to August 31, 1209/month
September 1 to September 30, \$990/month

Hours: May 1 to August 31, 35 hours/week
September 1 to September 30, 25 hours/week

Description: Duties for the AC include, but are not limited to: coordinating the student registration process; coordinating room bookings on campus; maintaining a participant database; working closely with the Orientation Team. Expertise in the following areas would be considered assets: database experience (specifically with FileMaker Pro), working with the public, some office administrative experience, as well as an understanding of the Programs offered through the CSD.

Campus Ambassador Coordinator

Remuneration: May 1 to August 31, 1209/month

September 1 to April 30, \$990/month

Hours: May 1 to August 31, 35 hours/week
September 1 to April 30, 25 hours/week

Description: The CAC is responsible for coordinating & marketing the Campus Ambassador Program. Responsibilities also include recruitment & training of all volunteer tour guides, First Year Initiative mentors, & volunteers for the U of A Open House. The CAC is also responsible for the marketing, implementation & coordination of the First Year Initiative student for a day program. On a daily basis the CAC is responsible for booking tours with interested parties, & ensuring that tours booked through their office as well as the office of The Registrar & Student Awards are assigned a Campus Ambassador tour guide.

Student Financial Aid Information Centre

Please note that the positions outlined for SFAIC are currently under review with regards to both their responsibilities & their remuneration.

Associate Director – Financial Information

Remuneration: \$961.00/month

Hours: 25hours/week

Description: The AD - Financial Information assists the Director in all facets of the Management of Staff. The AD will also liaise with service provider partners in the office & will work closely with the AD - Access Fund, interviewing potential recipients & helping to determine bursary disbursement allocations.

Associate Director – Access Fund

Remuneration: \$961.00/month

Hours: 25hours/week

Description: The AD - Access Fund will have primary responsibilities of the administration of the Access Fund. The AD will also work with the Director & the AD - Financial Information to manage the SFAIC

Student Group Services

Administrative Assistant

Term of Employment: August 30, 2004 – April 30, 2005

Remuneration: \$400.00/semester

Hours: 2 hrs/week + two 5 hour granting sessions/semester

Description: To assist the Director of Student Group Services in the day-to-day office tasks in the Student Group Services office. More specifically assisting to ensure that the Grant Applications, Group Registrations & Waivers are processed in a timely & efficient manner.

Events Assistant

Term of Employment: August 30, 2004 – October 5 2004

Remuneration: \$200.00

Hours: Orientation Clubs Fair (6 full days) Leadership Conference (2 full days)

Description: The events assistant with SGS works to assist the Director in the execution of the Orientation & WOW Clubs Fair, the Annual Executive Leadership Conference & the September Alcohol Awareness Training Seminars more specifically the Events Assistant will be at the set up, tear down & full running time of each event Student Groups Services is involved in organizing.

Student Distress Centre

Student Distress Centre Team Leader (two positions available)

Term of Employment: August 1 2004 - April 30 2005

Remuneration: \$318/month

Hours: 10 hours/week

Description: The SDC Team Leaders are responsible to the SDC Director & works closely with the Director in overseeing the organization & operations of SDC. While sharing many similar duties such as interviewing, training, & appreciating volunteers, there are individual responsibilities allocated to each Team Leader. One Team leader is responsible for volunteer scheduling & resource library management, & the other is responsible for updating call/drop-in statistics & organizing education & awareness booths. In your covering letter for these positions please indicate which position you are most interested in.

ECOS

ECOS – Team Leader

Term of Employment: August 1 2004 – April 30 2005

Remuneration: \$318/month

Hours: 10 hours/week

Description: The ECOS team leader will be responsible for assisting volunteers through the implementation of various projects. In addition the Team leader will fulfill other duties as provided by the Director of ECOS.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Our illustrious Arts & Entertainment writers go out and get the skinny on what's happening over the weekend and into next week so you don't have to.

Romane Stop Smoking Seminar

Ramada Inn
Monday, 29 March

Is there any name more synonymous with self-help seminars than the infamous Romane? Romane has been helping millions of people through the power of hypnotic suggestion, and this time, he wants all you smokers out there to ditch the cancer sticks and get a breath of fresh air.

Talked about as the "most powerful life-changing 25 hours on earth," the seminar also includes a mini-tutorial about stress control. Friendly and approachable, Romane will be more than willing to congratulate you on taking the first big step towards quitting smoking, so do it.

Year Zero Reunion Party

Butterdome
Saturday, 27 March



The University of Alberta Alumni Association and your Students' Union will be congratulating all those lucky enough to getting the hell out of the U of A before tuition jumps to ten grand this weekend. The Zero Year Reunion is a free party and concert at featuring Winnipeg band The Weatherthans, and Edmonton's own Niccigay.

Tickets for the event are free for graduating students, additional guest tickets (maximum four guest tickets/grad) can be purchased by graduating students for \$5.00. You can pick up your tickets at any information booth across campus by showing your OneCard. In addition to the rock festivities there will also be all kinds of door prizes and give aways so show up early and be sure to stay late.

Wayne Lee with Sheldon Casavant Festival Place

Wednesday, 31 March

Chances are you first encountered hypnotist extraordinaire Wayne Lee during a special presentation back in grade eight, but have you ever had the privilege of watching Sheldon Casavant do magic?

A professional magician at the tender age of 19, Casavant is an enthusiastic and interactive performer who recently had the honour of showing off his skills in Las Vegas.

Appearing at both community and corporate functions, he's been awarded countless accolades by magicians' organizations as well as enjoyed rave media reviews. This time, Casavant is gearing up for another show in his native Sherwood Park. This isn't your regular magician. Oh, and Lee might make you think you're a chicken or something too. Hilarious!

ASIA SZKULIAREK
Sweatshop Employee of the Month



Is Canada ready for Love, Sex?

Love, Sex, and Eating the Bones

Directed by Suzie Sutherland
Starring Hill Harper, Marlyne Nafflack,
Mark Taylor, Kai Soremekun, Mariela
Weathered, and Kenny Robinson
ThinkFilm Company
www.eatingthebones.com
Now Showing

RICK HUNTER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Finding a needle in a haystack is problematic, but making an independent feature film is much tougher. Making a romantic comedy in Canada—now that's nearly impossible. Nonetheless, Gemini-nominated Suzie Sutherland has done just that with his latest film, *Love, Sex, and Eating the Bones*.

"Yeah, a lot of people said we couldn't get it done, and that it wouldn't work. We're making comedies in Canada and nobody's interested in seeing them," Sutherland asserts. "I was like, 'Just look at Québec, just look at those films: there they have romantic comedies, so why can't we?' People in Canada do and see romantic comedies, so we just pressed ahead and tried to get it done. We had to stick to our vision like anyone else. It was tough."

Sutherland says she believes that the Canadian English-speaking film industry needs to focus more on films that can reach a wider audience and that's part of the reason why she chose to take on this project. "I think that we generally have an arthouse cinema in English Canada, and we don't really do that many comedies or genre pictures," she explains. "We've seen a lot of American films, and a lot of people believe that the only type of films there are. I really want to put that idea to rest; we make great films here, and I am trying to tell people 'hey, take a look at this film—it's funny, it's sexy, it's hot, and it's Canadian. My gosh!'"

Sutherland's film strictly adheres to the Canadian comedic tradition of quirky characters and bizarre sexuality. Michael (Hill Harper) is a photographer who works as a security guard while maintaining an over-zealous infatuation with porn. Jasmine (Marlyne Nafflack)—the celibate—is his love interest and their temulous

encounters set the stage for the rest of the film.

"I used to work as a security guard, and during that time I noticed that pornography surrounded us... You're on a twelve-hour shift with nothing better to do; you could read the newspaper or read your book, but there's always pornography around in such a place," Sutherland explains of her inspiration for the film. "I noticed that it affected some guys' relationships more than others, and I began to take notes of men and women and what they felt about it, because it's a taboo subject."

"Yeah, a lot of people said we couldn't get it done, and that it wouldn't work. We're making comedies in Canada and nobody's interested in seeing them."

SUZIE SUTHERLAND

Before dabbling in the eyebrow-raising realm of porno, Sutherland made a name for herself with her short, *My Father's Hands*, which was nominated for a Gemini in 2000. There too she danced along the fine line of comedy and serious issues as she explored the ideas of addiction in a comical setting. "I wanted to do a film about addiction, but I didn't want to do something about drugs, and I didn't want to do something about alcohol," she notes. "I wanted to make a picture that was actually funny, and we got a lot of laughter in the film, because people recognize themselves in it... I think that comedy comes from pain: if we can first laugh, then we can begin to heal. That's why we did this film."

Making a Can-Con romantic comedy is a tricky business, but one that needs to be conquered, especially since there are so many horrendous American ones already clogging the market. So if you're up for a little Canadian hilarity, be sure to check out *Love, Sex, and Eating the Bones*—oh, I guess you could always just go see the next Adam Sandler flick, but why would you want to do that to yourself?



Children Affected by the War BENEFIT CONCERT

Performances by local break dance, hip-hop and emcee groups: Vizion, Amir Aziz, K2 and Juno nominees: **BrassMunk**

Monies raised will go to the Sierra Leone organization Children Affected by the War (CAWF) which works in the rehabilitation and reintegration of child ex-combatants, and helps reunite them with their families.



STUDENT AWARDS INFORMATION

The Student Awards Office has several scholarship competitions running over the summer. Each competition has its own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions. For more information on these and other competitions please visit our website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards or the Student Awards Office at 1-80 Students' Union Building.

University of Alberta Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition
The Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition recognizes and rewards students for superior academic achievement (minimum GPA of 3.5) on a full normal course load taken at the University of Alberta during the September to April academic year. There are approximately 300 awards available through this competition. The awards range in value from \$500 to \$6,000 with some awards faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty. Students can submit their applications on-line at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards.

Applicants must be returning to full-time studies in September 2004 to be eligible for these scholarships. Deadline for receipt of applications is 01 June 2004.

University of Alberta Dr Horst A Schmid Travel Bursary
The Dr Horst A Schmid Travel Bursary was created to assist with the costs of participating in an international academic exchange. A number of scholarships are available ranging from \$500 to \$1,500. Application forms are available at the Student Awards Office, 1-80 SUB or at the International Centre, 172 HUB.

Applicants must be registered in an undergraduate degree program and must be part of an official University of Alberta exchange program to be eligible for this bursary. Deadline for receipt of applications in the Student Awards Office is 01 June 2004.

Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarships
The Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarships was created by the Alberta Scholarship Office to recognize and reward students for their academic achievements and encourage them to continue in their undergraduate program. Approximately 250 scholarships valued at \$2,500 each are available to University of Alberta students in the top 1 to 2% of their class. Candidates are nominated by the Student Awards Office and will be sent an application form in July.

Applicants must be Alberta residents and plan to enroll at the University of Alberta in the second or subsequent year of a full-time program. Students who have completed a degree program and are proceeding into another undergraduate program or a professional program must apply directly to the Student Awards Office by 01 June 2004.

Jason Lang Scholarship
The Jason Lang Scholarships were created in honor of Jason Lang, a 17 year old Alberta high school student who was killed in a school shooting. These \$1,000 scholarships are designed to reward the outstanding academic achievement of Alberta postsecondary students who are continuing into their second, third, or fourth year of studies. Candidates are nominated by the Alberta institution where they completed their previous year of undergraduate studies and will be sent an application form in August.

Applicants must be Alberta residents and have completed at least 80% of a full normal course load (i.e. at least 24 units of course weight) in their previous year of studies (September to April).

Rhodes Scholarships
The Rhodes Scholarship Competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students in any Faculty. These scholarships are tenable at the University of Oxford in England and cover fees, board and lodging, and travel expenses for two years of study. Scholars may follow their own choice of study and are required to attend Oxford in October 2005.

Proven intellectual and academic attainment of a high standard is required. Candidates must also show integrity of character, sympathy for and protection of the weak, the ability to lead, the energy to use their talents to the full, and participation in sports.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens or persons domiciled in Canada; have been born between October 2, 1980, and October 1, 1986; and have received an undergraduate degree before taking up the scholarship (except medical students).

Application forms will be available in August at the Student Awards Office, 1-80 SUB.

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THE GATEWAY
 LAUGHING IN THE FACE OF DECENCY
 SINCE 1910

FREE STUFF



A Benefit for the CARAS Music Education Program - BMO-AID

Songwriters' Circle

Songs & stories by some of Canada's best songwriters

Unless you live under a rock, you probably know the jams will be hitting town in just over a week. Besides the fancy dresses and award gala, the festivities will also include a Songwriters' Circle featuring Buck 65, Shayne, Esthero, Corb Lund, Ian Thomas, and many more. The festivities get under way Sunday, 4 April at the Winspear Centre, and all proceeds will go towards this CARAS program that helps schools across Canada foster music education by facilitating equipment and instrument purchases. If you want to score a pair of free tickets to the Songwriters' Circle just send an e-mail to entertainment@gateway.nalberta.ca with the subject line "I want to party with Lund." Only winners will be contacted.

THE GATEWAY
 SHMOOZING WITH B-LIST CELEBS SINCE 1910

Jersey not Gigli, but still not good

Jersey Girl

Directed by Kevin Smith
 Starring Ben Affleck, Ollie Trinke,
 Liv Uller and Jennifer Lopez
 Miramax
www.jerseygirl-movie.com
 Now Showing

DANKASZOR
 Production Editor

Kevin Smith desperately wants you to forget *Gigli*, the Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez film that was so poorly reviewed and so reviled—despite nobody seeing it—that anything even remotely associated with the phenomenon that was *Bennifer* is treated like a leper with mono. Smith has worked overtime to distance his own *Jersey/Affleck* vehicle *Jersey Girl* from *Gigli*; the ads have him front and centre mugging for the camera about Liv Uller's breasts rather than playing up Affleck and Lopez's involvement in the film. But those worrying about *Jersey Girl* just being *Gigli* over again can dissolve those concerns—this film is imperfect in entirely different ways.

Jersey Girl is the story of Ollie Trinke (Affleck), a workaholic music publicist who falls in love with Gertrude (Jennifer Lopez) whom he marries. During the birth of their first child, Gertrude dies from a brain aneurysm and the distraught Ollie messes up at a Will Smith press conference he organized by swearing at the media and dissing his child. Without work,



BENIFFER Affleck talks to someone who is decidedly not J-Lov.

Ollie must go and live with his father (George Carlin) in New Jersey, and bring up his new daughter as best he can.

The problem with *Jersey Girl* is its painful mediocrity. Just when it seems that the film will be a hard-edged examination of a man who has lost his life outside from him, it spins into predictable schlock. Other times, when the movie seems like predictable schlock, there is a surprisingly touching and nuanced character moment.

For those still hesitant about the Affleck/Lopez aspect of the film, you'll be happy to know Lopez's character dies within the first ten minutes of the movie. The film isn't even about the titular *Jersey Girl*—Ollie and Gertrude's daughter—but, rather it focuses on how a man handles adversity, which is probably the movie's greatest strength.

Affleck even turns in some decent acting along the way—something which he hasn't attempted since *Chasing Amy*—and this can be seen best when Affleck is explaining his poor parenting to his infant daughter, while his own father watches from afar. However, the interesting arc of Affleck's character isn't handled with enough authenticity for the audience

to truly get behind him, as intimate character moments are punctuated with cheesy and manipulative music, key development is played out in montage and many situations are included as contrivances of the plot.

Affleck's main costar—the nine-year-old Rachel Castro, who plays Ollie's daughter at age six—is likeable enough, but she's more clever and articulate than any real six-year-old could ever be. As such, Castro keeps the film from being anything more than a sentimental and cheesy fluff piece.

Many Kevin Smith fans will probably go to this film to see some of his brand of crass geek humour. While there are echoes of previous Kevin Smith movies here, this is clearly Smith attempting to make a "real" movie for a different audience. There are one or two poop and masturbation jokes in *Jersey Girl*, but Jay and Silent Bob, who you expect to be delivering them, are notably absent. Overall, the thrust of the narrative is mainstream-friendly.

Jersey Girl isn't a terrible movie—it's just a not a very good one. Kevin Smith has done better than this, as has pretty much the entire cast, but they've all done worse as well. At least *Jersey Girl* is better than *Gigli*.

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Girl Next Door makes even porno uninteresting

The Girl Next Door

Directed by Luke Greenfield
Starring Elisha Cuthbert and
Emile Hirsch
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www.thegirlnextdoorovie.com
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RICK HUNTER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The *Girl Next Door* is yet another installment of the banal sexual coming-of-age story, which if you're smart, you'll avoid like an unplanned pregnancy. In between the ridiculous and no-longer shocking plot is just a lot of sub-par acting and unfunny humour.

Mathew Kidman's (Emile Hirsch) studious life is turned upside down when alluring Danielle (Elisha Cuthbert) moves in next door, but their budding romance is cut short when Mathew discovers that she's a bonafide adult film starlet. Following his inevitable moral struggle between hot sex and lousedom, Mathew realizes that porn stars can be decent people.

Predictably, Mathew's struggle to bring Danielle over to the good side and steal her away from the evil porn producer (Timothy Olyphant), Mathew and his friends, Eli (Chris Marquette) and Klitz (Paul Dano), are forced to creatively figure out a

way to make \$30,000 before their school finds out that their newfound porn friends stole the same amount from the establishment. In a coup de grace worthy of any pubescent fantasy, the trio of friends dive headfirst into the dirty movie business with expected results. If there's a lesson to be learned from this film, it's probably to never trust a porn producer because they're vengeful bastards, but then again, doesn't everyone already know that?

The *Girl Next Door* feels like a remake of *Risky Business*, but this time it's about porn stars instead of prostitutes. In 1983, the notion of an upscale white male youth opening up a brothel in his parent's house was outrageous; it pushed the barriers of commercial cinema a little bit further and launched the career of Tom Cruise. Now, a whole generation later, a movie like this seems a little too tame and further, a lot too lame.

This film unsuccessfully tries to capture that nostalgic, carefree attitude about the final moments of high school, and it begins and ends with "attempting to be stirring" montage sequences of random students reciting their yearbook quotes.

Other films like this one, like *Can't Hardly Wait*, or *American Pie*, generally exploit a solid comedy base to keep the audience interested, but here the jokes aren't stupid enough to be funny, yet the film isn't serious enough to evoke an emotional response.

Instead, *The Girl Next Door* is just a series of mildly inter-

esting sequences tied together with an unrealistic plot.

The only funny moments in the film always involve Mathew's two best friends. Eli is the quintessential Audio Video Club president with a large number of minions to do his bidding, and Klitz operates at zero percent self-confidence. Together, these characters manage to create a humorous dynamic, which manifests itself at an adult film trade show when a distraught Mathew begs Danielle to give him another chance while his two friends are telling prospective "actresses" that they're film directors. Chaos ensues when the 250-pound jealous boyfriend finds out they're just high-school students.

The *Girl Next Door* isn't memorable, but it does offer up an occasional laugh.

The unfortunate part after watching a film like this is you realize how hard your own high-school experiences were, and how entirely unlikely it is that a porn star is going to move in next door.



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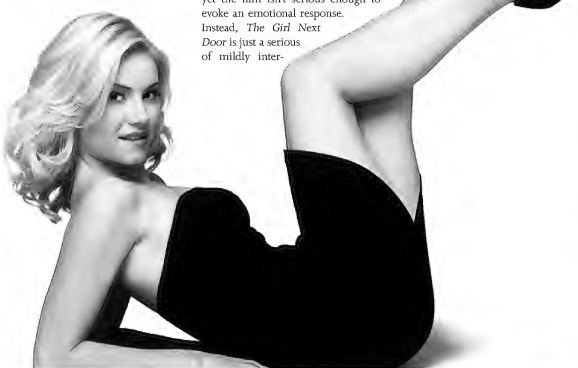
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The monster in Charlize Theron

ERIC GUILLEMINTE
Excalibur, York University

TORONTO (CUP)—just how did Charlize Theron completely transform herself from an actress known for her dazzling good looks into an infamous killer? The beautiful South African actress—who recently won an Oscar for her performance in *Monster* as Aileen Wuornos, a female serial killer convicted of murdering six men—says it was just a matter of getting into her character.

By working closely with writer/director Patty Jenkins, who had been in communication with Wuornos before her execution in Florida, Theron was able to gain access to the real-life killer's personal journals that featured descriptive notes about her life. These journals, which were also the inspiration for the film, allowed Theron to gain an intimate understanding of what actually pushed the woman to kill, and she says it changed her perspective of what killers really are.

"A lot of times in society, with people like Aileen, we just immediately label them," says Theron. "[We say] they're crazy, they're psychopaths, they're evil—it's easier. I just don't believe the human condition is that black and white; her story had a tremendous amount of grey."

A desolate prostitute, Wuornos struggled through life making ends meet the only way she knew how: street peddling. Abused and abandoned as a child, she also had a baby

at the age of 13. It wasn't until she met Tyrin Moore (portrayed as Christina Ricci's character Selby) that things began to look up for her. "This was a woman who didn't start off evil or bad, but definitely got to a place in her life where she crossed the line and did really terrible things," Theron elaborates.

"A lot of times in society, with people like Aileen, we just immediately label them. [We say] they're crazy, they're psychopaths, they're evil—it's easier."

CHARLIZE THERON

Theron's portrayal of the killer was indeed an amazing change for the actress; the former model gained 30 pounds for the role and wore several prosthetics and false teeth to create the eerie resemblance to Aileen Wuornos seen in the film.

Apart from the remarkable physical changes, Theron also attempted to preserve Wuornos' image; the actress also dove deep into her character's persona. "Everything about Aileen Wuornos came from her emotional journey," says Theron. "The way she puffed herself up and threw her head back—that's not Aileen being weird. That's the homeless Aileen. That's survival."

"The way she felt about her body [was terrible]... you know, she had a child when she was 13. She wrote in her letters that even though she was a prostitute, she never took her shirt off. When she was arrested and you saw her body, you could see this was a woman who had just been trying to survive. It wasn't about getting fat. Her body was the map to her journey," she continues.

Despite her in-depth understanding of Wuornos, Theron says she still feared her performance wouldn't be enough to make the audience grasp the subtleties that she had come to respect. "We were concerned about not turning [Wuornos] into a caricature," she explains. "[But], when I saw myself in the mirror the first time, I was really pleased... I like that there's not some mission behind this story to make sure people felt one specific way about her. You either saw the sensational stuff, the lesbian, first American female serial killer... or poor child, she was abused, had a baby at 13."

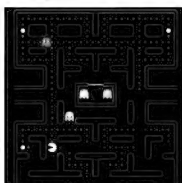
Whether or not the film portrays Aileen Wuornos a certain way to each audience member, Theron hopes that their interpretation of her character is not forced upon them as in most films.

"One thing I loathe in the movies is manipulation, and what I love about this story is that it doesn't manipulate you. It doesn't hit you over the head or try to make sure this one thing is coming through. It's not the kind of movie everyone feels the same way about, and I like that."

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HEATHER ADLER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

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Congrats to everyone who got an Iron Ring on the 13th! Good luck with everything!

If you're reading this in ENG 400, you must be really bored! You got through all of the Gateway to the Classifieds? Wow, now you're done. I guess it's time to pay attention or finish your assignment - it's due today, remember?

Marie's Thought (channeled through Tyler): It's 3:30 on Friday. Why am I at the HUB desk? JuJuTrain's Other Campus Recommendation of the Week: smile, just another month till summer.



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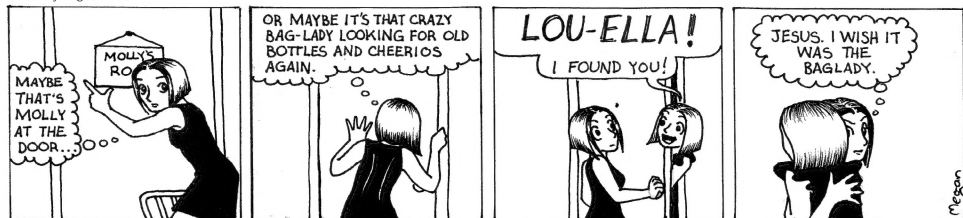


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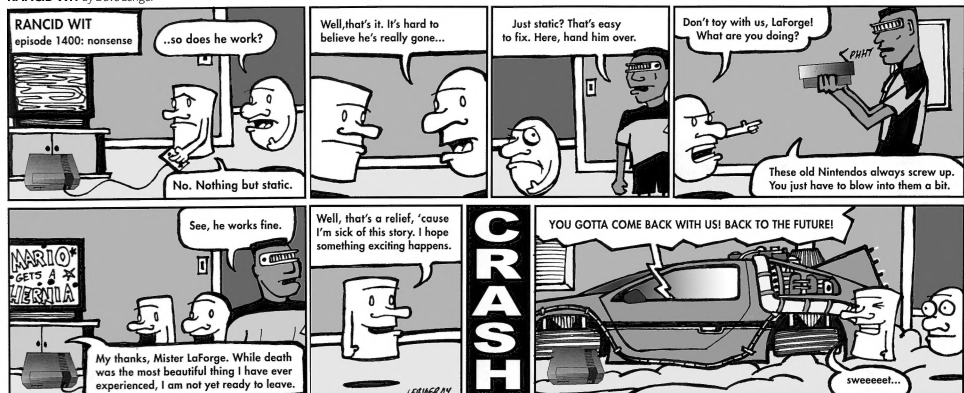
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cheers!

a taste of the fine art of beer judging

Words: Leah Collins
Photos: Shawn Benbow



New experiences and expanding those glittering horizons is what being a university-type is all about. And, though there's plenty of textbook- and three-hour-lecture-related educational fun on offer from glorious academia, there remain plenty of "scholastic endeavours" to be pursued on more extracurricular levels. Take, for instance, the fine art of beer appreciation.

Though the educational benefits of, say, spending four out of five school nights face-down in a dirty bathtub full of residence-brewed moonshine is somewhat questionable, with the beer drinking habits that often accompany one's time on campus comes an eventual appreciation for the various styles and brands of beer available. Tastes mature, and students graduate from guzzling Brand X Swill to Brand X Swill Gold.

But without tasting experience, this "flavour graduation" can be an ever elusive beer dream. Which is why, perhaps, the hobby of "beer tasting" is gaining in popularity. Like wine tasters, beer tasters sample various types and styles of beer, judging each drink using criteria of appearance, aroma, and flavour. It's about learning details of the brewing practice, appreciating the subtleties of a well-brewed pint, and just learning about what tastes particularly super. And perhaps because of the simple difference of beer over wine—a detail that suggests less evening gowns and daintily spitting into crystal goblets and more bubba kegs and chants of "Three Henday"—there's a perception that the practice of beer tasting is a bit more accessible and a bit

more, as they say, "fun." "Fun" as it is, that isn't to say that beer tasting is as simple as ordering three pitchers of cheap beer and "sampling" them. Tasting requires organization and purpose. And before any sample beer can pass those lips and gums, one must take careful consideration of a few factors to ensure the most objective of beer tests.

The first thing to consider is beer tastings are like theme parties, minus the costumes and other sketchy paraphernalia. By choosing a theme (such as lagers, locally brewed beers, wheat ales, etc) your beer tasting automatically gains a structure, making it easier to select five to twelve



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beers (suggested tasting number) for your swellephant event.

There's a certain amount of creativity allowed in how you stage your beer tasting, depending on what you want to get out of the experience. Seasoned beer geeks might get their kicks sampling beers of different vintages. Also to consider are tastings comparing the variations between brands of a particular type of beer, or "blind

tastings" where tasters sample several beers and guess the name of each brand tasted, or compare their notes on the drinks to determine a favourite. The method and the style is fairly irrelevant, so long as you follow a few basic guidelines: serve the drinks at optimum tasting temperature (between three and ten°C for lighter beers and between ten and 15°C for ales) in separate identical cups, making sure to keep all samples of the same amount (two to four ounces

things in a similar manner—from how they look at the beer to judge its colour to how they swallow it. Consider jotting down your thoughts, rating the drinks on a scale of one to five (one = poor, five = fantastic), and of course, discussing your impressions with the other tasters. And while comments can vary from one-word grunts of approval to elaborate metaphors involving barley, hops, and unicorns,

there is still an organization to how one goes about judging a beery beverage. Upon pouring, consider the drink's appearance: its colour, carbonation, and turbidity (cloudiness). After pouring, hold the beer to the light and check the colour. The appearance of a beer is largely related to the style of beer being sampled—pilners are often greenish-yellow, stouts are often deep brown to the point of being opaque—but a glass of good beer should be deliciously attractive, and should be judged accordingly. Apart from colour, note the head. A fresh, and generally good beer should leave behind a light

clinging film of foam on the side of the glass ("Brussels Lace") after each sip. As well, note how cloudy the beer is (often a prime way of determining whether a beer is fresh). Some beers are expected to be cloudy (bottle-conditioned beers), but presence of "floaties" or other delightful particulate fun is an automatic "F" on the beer taster's score sheet, and grounds to introduce the beer to the kitchen drain. Before the head dissipates, make sure to note the scent of the beer. How the beer smells reveals how well the beer has been handled and stored. Ideally, you should notice an appealing aroma, but if a beer has been mishandled, it can create odours similar to wet-cardboard (a symptom of oxidation, old beer, and beer kept at warm temperatures) and skunk (a symptom of light-exposed beer).

But of course, the crux of a tasting is all about the taste itself: the flavour, "mouthfeel" (thickness), and aftertaste. Unlike it's more refined counterpart, wine tasting, there's no spitting in beer tasting. Take a gulp, swallow (allowing the beer to wash over all those sensitive taste buds), and then take notes. Is the beer heavy or light? Does your impression of the beer change as you swallow it about? Is the flavour fruity? Rich? Dry? Totally awesome?

And then ask yourself: did I learn anything? Chances are you sure did, champ. Cheers.

G

Taste this!

The results of a very special Gateway beer tasting soirée

They certainly drink enough, but Gateway-types certainly aren't beer experts despite their occasional inebriated hallucinations of awesomeness. But there's no time like a busy press night to do some beer-related learning, so the Gateway's own Chris "Bubba Keg" Boutet, Heather "I am Canadian" Adler, Dave "Beery" Berry, Dan "they all taste like pee" Kaszor, and Joel "Atkins Beer" Chury took part in a beer-tasting session, following the nifty rules outlined above. In a Pepsi-style blind taste test, five beers (Canadian, Pilsner, Lucky Lager, Heineken, and Alexander Keith's India Pale Ale) were sampled by Team Gateway, and rated according to preference. Beers were drank. Beers were rated. Dan got kind of tipsy. Everyone learned a little something about the swill they drink on a regular basis—things like how Lucky Lager tastes like the equivalent of "licking a frat boy." Canadian is similar to a "punch in the taste buds," and Keith's is, well, okay.

CANADIAN (2.2 out of 5):

APPEARANCE (Boutet)

"Slightly dark. Good carbonization; head is gold."

(Adler) "On the darker side—like cat pee if the cat had a yeast infection."

SCENT (Adler) "Smells halfway between vinegar and a frat party."

TASTE (Berry) "Bitter. Light, but mildly viscous." (Adler) "Has an aftertaste equivalent to a punch in the taste buds."

PILSENER (2.6 out of 5):

APPEARANCE (Adler)

"Deep gold—like heaven in a bottle."

SCENT (Chury) "Smells nose-burny." (Boutet) "Inoffensive, I guess. I smell styrofoam, but that's probably just the cup."

TASTE (Boutet) "Tangy and flat. Strong barley flavour with a dirty aftertaste that reminds me of cigarettes."

LUCKY LAGER (2.2 out of 5):

APPEARANCE (Adler) "Yellow, foamy, but not too carbonated. It's like the girl you made fun of in Junior High."

(Kaszor) "No, no—this one looks like piss."

SCENT (Berry) "Stale scent. Light fruit hops can be detected."

TASTE (Chury) "Slides down easily, but I don't know if that's a good thing. Medicinity, thy name is this beer."

HEINEKEN (1 out of 5):

APPEARANCE (Berry) "Dark yellow—like the urine of a man with kidney problems."

SCENT (Berry) "Pungent, bitter, stale, skunky. Like an ashtray." (Boutet) "Smells like a

tireyard."

TASTE (Kaszor) "Clearly the worst, foulest flavour of any beer. Leaves a film in my mouth that tastes like the devil's semen."

ALEXANDER KEITH'S (3.3 out of 5):

APPEARANCE (Heather Adler) "Lots-o-residue, light colours, fizzy, ya."

SCENT (Chury) "Sour, but tolerable."

TASTE (Adler) "Not much of an offensive aftertaste, and I didn't feel like God ripped out my taste buds after drinking it. I'd drink this if it were on special."